

Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes
Selectmen's Room, Middleborough Town Hall
10 Nickerson Avenue, Middleborough, MA 02346
May 12, 2022

Chairman Darrin DeGrazia, Dr. Edward Braun, Liz Elgosin, and Matthew Maher were present.

7:30 P.M. Minutes

Upon a motion made by Liz Elgosin and seconded by Dr. Edward Braun, the board

VOTED: to approve the minutes of April 28, 2022.

Chairman Darrin DeGrazia, Dr. Edward Braun, Liz Elgosin, and Matthew Maher were in favor. (4-0)

7:30 P.M. Patrick Martin – 277 Purchase Street

Chairman Darrin DeGrazia read into the record the legal advertisement and declared the hearing open. Chairman Darrin DeGrazia informed the applicant that there are only four members present tonight. The applicant can proceed with four members but will need a unanimous vote, or continue until there are five members present. The applicant agreed to proceed with four members.

Patrick Martin and Charles Young are before the board to request a hobby kennel license located at 277 Purchase Street. Patrick Martin informed the board that they are involved with 22Mohawks, which is a non-profit organization who raise the funds to fund a pup/dog for a veteran program. They are outfitting Veterans with PTSD with therapy dogs. They have been working with this organization who have retained them to train the Veterans, which they offer free of charge. They also help them locate dogs. Right now they are pulling from about nine kill shelters down south. They meet with the Veterans, see what their lifestyles are like, to see if they can best outfit them with a pup or dog. They would then meet with them twice a month where they train with them. The dogs are completely vet checked, chipped and certified prior to coming. The dogs stay with them for a certain amount of time, and then are turned over to the Veteran who starts the training immediately.

Matthew Maher asked if there is any specific breed. Patrick Martin said no. It really depends on the needs of the Veterans, some need lap dogs, hypoallergenic dogs, and smaller dogs. They are looking for well-rounded dogs.

Chairman Darrin DeGrazia asked how many dogs they are looking to keep at the kennel. Patrick Martin said four. They currently have a building with four kennels in it. Chairman Darrin DeGrazia said the reason for the hobby license is because it's a business in that sense. Patrick Martin said that is correct.

Liz Elgosin asked when they bring the dog up from the South how long does it take for them to go to the Veteran. Patrick Martin said that is one of the biggest catalyst for this organization because right now there is about a five to ten year waiting list for Veterans to get the support dogs. They have it down to approximately 7 -14 days to get the dogs to the veterans. Once they are bonded they start the journey with them.

Dr. Edward Braun asked if they will retail or sell any products like food or dog related products. Patrick Martin said no. Everything they get is donated. Dr. Edward Braun asked if the organization picks up the cost of the care of the dogs. Patrick Martin said they pay for transport up, food and a veterinarian if needed once they are here. Dr. Edward Braun asked what States the dogs are coming from. Patrick Martin said right now it is strictly St. Augustine, Florida.

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Chairman Darrin DeGrazia said basically their part of it is training and placement. Patrick Martin said yes.

Charles Young informed the board that he started professional K-9 services about a year ago. He is a retired K-9 handler, and has trained over a 180 police dogs in the State of Massachusetts. He and Patrick worked in the same department together for 22 years. When they both retired he was doing the business by himself and then he ended up looking into 22Mohawks. They are both retired law enforcement and dogs have been their whole life and their whole careers. They decided to join forces together to try to make this organization happen. Veterans are on a waiting list for almost 10 years to purchase dogs that are almost \$30,000. What they do is go out and get these dogs that are basically in a kill shelter, they send him a video, he tests the dogs through the video, looks at the dog's mannerisms, and then they ship them off to them. They get the dogs and train them. The reason they are doing this is 22Mohawks is a non-profit organization that does fundraising for Veterans. They supply them with the dogs, and they offer the Veterans, through his business, free training for a lifetime of these dogs.

Chairman Darrin DeGrazia asked when they would do the training. Charles Young said they offer it on the first and third Sunday of the month from 9-1. Matthew Maher said he is familiar with the property and there is plenty of room for parking. He thinks this is a great project.

Chairman Darrin DeGrazia asked if anyone would like to be heard on this matter. Hearing no comments Chairman Darrin DeGrazia closed the hearing and called for a motion.

Upon a motion made by Matthew Maher and seconded by Liz Elgosin, the board

VOTED: ***to approve the petition of Patrick Martin, 277 Purchase Street, Middleborough, MA 02346 relative to his request to be granted a special permit pursuant to Section 3.1.D.3 of the Middleborough Zoning By-law to allow for a hobby kennel license located at 277 Purchase Street, Middleborough Assessor's Map 63, lot 3527.***

Chairman Darrin DeGrazia, Dr. Edward Braun, Liz Elgosin, and Matthew Maher were in favor. (4-0)

Upon a motion made by Dr. Edward Braun and seconded by Liz Elgosin, the board

VOTED: ***to adopt the following findings:***

- 1. The proposed site is appropriate for use and structure. It is noted that the property is significant in size, and the number of dogs is relatively small.***
- 2. Adequate and appropriate facilities have been provided to insure the proper operation of the use, structure or condition. He would refer back to the letter of support from the Animal Control Officer.***
- 3. Traffic flow and safety, including parking and loading are adequate and there will be no nuisance or serious hazard to vehicles or pedestrians.***
- 4. Adequate water, sewer and other utilities as well as other public and private services are available.***
- 5. The use involved will not be detrimental to the established or future character of the neighborhood and town and has been subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards. It is noted that the kennel area is fully fenced and its unlikely that the passing public would know the dogs are on the premise.***

Chairman Darrin DeGrazia, Dr. Edward Braun, Liz Elgosin, and Matthew Maher were in favor. (4-0)

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Upon a motion made Liz Elgosin by and seconded by Matthew Maher, the board

VOTED: ***to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.***

Chairman Darrin DeGrazia, Dr. Edward Braun, Liz Elgosin, and Matthew Maher were in favor. (4-0)