From: Jen Wight <wighthouse@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 5:05 PM
To: claire RIGOLLET <clairiesk@gmail.com>; debrourke@outlook.com <debrourke@outlook.com>; Rosa Weinberg <rosaweinberg@gmail.com>; Danny Sullivan <spindive99@yahoo.com>; Mike Attisha <mattisha@gmail.com>; Florent Daccord <flo.87.flo@gmail.com>; Wendy Richter & Neal Mongold <richterg@aol.com>; Brenda Sullivan <cardiacnurse5@yahoo.com>; Arthur Ronayne <ronaynesons@yahoo.com>; Jennifer Wight <wighthouse@hotmail.com>; Neal Mongold <nmongold@aol.com>; Philippe Rigollet <rigollet@math.mit.edu>; Terri Brosius <tdbrosius@comcast.net>; dan.wight@hotmail.com <dan.wight@hotmail.com>; ramamoto@gmail.com <ramamoto@gmail.com>; Eric Brosius <ejbrosius@comcast.net>
Subject: 17 Brattle Place: Special Use Permit Request

Hello Brattle Place Friends/Neighbors/Both,

As many of you know, for the past 4+ years I have operated a small dog business from my home called The Whispering Wolf. I started the business during the pandemic as a way to supplement our family's income. From The Whispering Wolf's conception, I worked with the then Arlington Animal Control Officer, Diane Welch, to ensure I was in compliance with the town's bi-laws. I was assured then that based on my business plan that I did not need any special licensing or permits. For those of you who don't know, The Whispering Wolf is a pick up and play service, wherein I pick up a pre-scheduled set of dogs, bring them together in my backyard to play, and then I bring them home. The dogs I care for are with me for a few hours a day, usually between 11am-2pm. All of the dogs have been assessed for temperament and are up-to-date on their vaccines. I am not open on weekends. I close when Arlington schools close, the weather is really bad, or when my kids are sick. It really is the perfect dog lover's, mom's hours job and the revenue it generates has been vital to Wight family thriving during these economically challenging times.

In October of 2024 a new act was passed in Massachusetts called Ollie's Law. Ollie's Law is an act to increase kennel safety. It puts into place commonsense standards and regulations for dog daycares and boarding facilities. With Ollie's Law in place the definition of a doggy daycare has been set as having any numbers of dogs that are not your own, on your property, for any consistent and extended period of time. This means that despite the mobility of my service, the short duration, and the flexible nature of my operating hours,

The Whispering Wolf is now considered a doggy daycare by the State and it requires a commercial kennel license to continue operation. Herein lies the problem, in order to get a commercial kennel license in Arlington, I need to be located in an industrial or business zone.

I love what I do, I'm really good at it and I would like to be in compliance and continue to operate in our town. In order to do that I am actively pursuing two avenues simultaneously:

1. Staying in the same place, using the same business model (small, mobile, mother's hours M-F) and applying for a town-issued Special Use Permit.

2. Renting an industrial or business-zoned property in Arlington and growing in size and service spectrum to accommodate newly added overhead (commercial-use rent, utilities + employees, etc.)

Personally, I like being small, charging an affordable rate and having flexible hours to spend time with my family. I had no interest in growing a dog care empire. I favor option 1: Staying the same and getting issued a Special Use Permit which would then allow Arlington's Animal Control Officer to visit and issue The Whispering Wolf a commercial kennel license at 17 Brattle Place.

The application process is similar to getting our road paved. There are lots of steps including submitting an application and presenting my case in front of the Arlington Zoning Board. This is where you, my neighbors, come in. As abutters to my property, you will be notified of my application and the date of the hearing. Your opinion matters not only to the issuance of a Special Use Permit, but to me as well. Especially, if you have felt uncomfortable or have felt disrupted or burdened by the business I am operating.

To help you decide, I want to assure you that a Special Use Permit will not:

- Change Brattle Place’s residential zone classification.
- Lower the cost of property value on our street.
- Give me or anyone else free range to operate any type of business on our road
- Allow me to haphazardly expand my business for financial gain (Kennel Licenses indicate the number of dogs allowed and are based on outdoor square footage. I would not be able to expand in size # of dogs allowed per day.)

A Special Use Permit will:

- Put me in compliance with the town’s bylaws and Ollie’s Law allowing the Animal Control Officer to issue me a commercial kennel license. Note: A kennel license

needs to be renewed yearly and if conditions are not met, or there are any complaints registered it can be denied.

- Allow me to continue to operate The Whispering Wolf in the same capacity as I have been doing for the past 4 years, which includes:
    - Keeping the number of dogs allowed per day low
    - Being mindful of noise (barking)
    - Operating during school hours to prevent early morning or late evening disruptions
    - Refraining from using any signage (eye sore)
    - Preventing additional traffic on our road by discouraging my human clients from picking up or dropping off their dogs.

Arlington is a wonderful place to live, but it is very expensive. I am lucky that I was able to create my own American Dream. At 50yrs old (March 20th!) I found a career that not only I love, but also affords me the ability to live in Arlington while still being available and flexible for my children - my top priority.

Thank you for taking the time to read this **very long email**. Your support is appreciated. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you might have. If you choose to, I would love your support at the hearing.

Sincerely,

Jen Wight
The Whispering Wolf
Everyone thinks they have the best dog. And none of them are wrong. -- W.R. Purche
TheWhisperingWolf.com