

ATTENTION GRAND ISLAND TOWN BOARD

June 3, 2015

We the neighbors of 2076 Stony Point Road would like to OPPOSE the "Special Permit" in which Kim Leys would like to acquire for the following reasons:

- Our parcels are only 100 feet wide (when the houses are factored in this equation, which only allows a distance of approximately 20 feet between the two premises) and the TWO HUNDRED foot distance is not an adequate distance.
- The definition of AGRICULTURAL being the "Kind" of special permit brings a vast range of animals.
- The noise and smell that will encompass our surroundings.
- There will definitely be an increase of pests and vermin in our area.
- We did not receive a notice of the certain changes with the "CODE CONDITIONS". If a special use permit enables an owner to use land in a manner the code already permits and that should be allowed, so long as the board is assured that the use is in harmony with the rest of the neighborhood and that it complies with certain code conditions.
- The so called "Special Permit" which has not been utilized in several years, should be subject to a "RENEWAL" and not just Grandfathered.

In conclusion:

I would like to remind the Grand Island Board about one thing;

The meaning of zoning (especially the ending):

Zoning is used to implement the planning objectives of a municipality. It's a device for shaping and directing growth, **addressing community problems and maintaining healthy, attractive communities.**

Yes, we the residence of 2056 Stony Point Road would very much like to maintain a healthy and attractive community here on our street. In addition, we would like to add that our area has flourished throughout the years and this type of variance or permit was probably more acceptable in the past then now. So please note that we would strongly like to preserve our zone as being "Residential" and NOT a "Farm".

Respectfully, as a taxpayer of Grand Island

Ronald and Teresa Rattus

December 15, 2016

Dear Mr. Hardwick,

I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the approval of declaring Grand Island an agricultural district. I attended the meeting on October 19, 2016 in East Aurora and again the hearing on November 10, 2016 in Grand Island. My husband and I voiced our concern regarding my neighbor who wishes to have our area declared an agricultural district. At that meeting, we were able to voice our concerns and this letter is intended to be an addendum to our speech.

Before I begin, I wish to make clear that I do not condemn Agricultural growth and I have a sound understanding regarding the importance of agricultural growth to the economy, the population, and the environment. I have grown up on Grand Island in the very home I now own. Growing up here and living on busy Stony Point Road I have experienced decades of changes and growth in our community. My concern stems from the fact that land on the island is limited therefore there is not enough land to produce significant quantities of food to be considered a farm for public produce purchases. In addition, I question if there is proper waste disposal of the livestock fecal matter, and how will the pests, including rats, be controlled? This is a public health issue. As you know rats carry disease and standing water from the water troughs breed mosquitos, which carry the Zika virus, and there are pregnant women on our beloved island.

Perhaps having the capacity to grow vegetables and fruits for one's individual family and a small roadside stand is a nice consideration however, what comes to mind is an unsuccessful occurrence regarding the same that occurred here on Grand Island. There is a residential area near Ransom Road that had a community garden in which vegetables were grown for the residents who participated. Unfortunately, now that area stands barren and no spade has turned that soil in quite a while.

I know that most residence on Grand Island love gardening and do have some sort of vegetable garden, myself included. However when there is a homestead with livestock near a modern residential family there is not only the offensive odor due to the animal waste, the pests that are attracted to the area because of the animals & waste make growing a vegetable garden very difficult and the harvest is less than optimal.

My gravest concern with Grand Island becoming an agricultural district is first and foremost the proper and sanitary disposal of the animal waste which is attracting pests, including rats. The decomposing fecal matter produces a putrid smell making it unbearable to sit outside and enjoy our yard. With the situation as it is with the livestock, pests, and odors from our neighbors not so well maintained "farm," the surrounding homes and property values are rapidly decreasing. With all the new building developments going on on Grand Island it is hard to believe that "livestock farming" is still allowed. This area should have been rezoned years ago as residential only because being an agricultural district does not fit in with the greater plan for commerce and development on Grand Island. This is evidenced by all the new high-end homes being built, the addition of roundabouts to accommodate increased traffic and the building of new businesses. The livestock farming days of Grand Island have long since passed and the people that would like to pursue that livelihood should pursue that in rural areas, not densely populated suburban residential communities.

I very much hope that you will behold the whole picture, because your final decision will impact our future as residents of Grand Island.

Sincerely,
Teresa and Ron Rattus