

07/07/2020

South Huron Municipality

Clerk, Mayor, Council

Thank you for taking the time to read the many pieces of correspondence regarding a bylaw exemption for Brandon Gibbons Vanderwel and Destiny Duncan. While I do have a partial bias as I am involved in the transaction of the property located at 70114B Grand Bend Line, I also have a partial bias to South Huron. When my wife and I were looking for a property in the area we specifically looked outside of Lambton Shores due to the lack of integrity within the council. We knew there were better options real close and it was a not long before we found a nice little acreage outside of residential zones with rural being a fairly accurate designation. The property is of a private nature and truthfully with the exception of some inconveniences, we have enjoyed the peacefulness and tranquility of being here. Ninety percent of the year it is very quiet around the property. Being backed off the highway there is very little highway noise and although the Motorplex is right on the other side of the property, the sound from the drag strip rarely is noticeable. We have said it numerous times over the past few years that often we have heard the cars louder out on the lake than we ever hear them on the property. That being said when the Motorplex does have big events the jets are kind of hard to escape. Fortunately or unfortunately however you look at it, this is at most four weekends out of the year. The treed lot provides great acoustical dampening and privacy. While not a big fan of social media I have read some articles in mainstream media along with the original submission to council, and do have some considerations for you.

1) I believe back in 2015 South Huron was documented one of, if not the worst for impaired driving. That as we can all agree is not a great title to hold, however you didn't ban alcohol, or vehicles, you educated and addressed the issue head on to protect the community and its citizens. Brandon and Destiny provided council and those who actually read through their plan a fairly great start to provide solace that they are one hundred percent about security and safety not only of the community and its citizens but for their cats as well. I had the opportunity to meet their cats at the property in Lambton Shores before they were moved from there. These big cats are humanized. They are big and yes, absolutely need to be respected. But they, and truthfully all of the cats that were there then are humanized. They have a bond with their "humans".

2) We live in a society where different people have different interests and hobbies. There are plenty of hunters or gun carrying farmers that possess and have the opportunity to use a gun as a weapon. They do not. They understand the risks, the safety aspect, and the respect toward the weapon and the rest of the society not to do so by becoming educated and take steps to foresee mishaps. Truthfully, I respect these animals, and I have seen the respect that the animals and the humans have with each other. The safety and security plan set forth by Brandon and Destiny I believe is more for the comfort of council and community than of need. It appears that Brandon and Destiny have sought an appropriate sized and zoned property to accommodate them in a respectful manner, one which can suit a healthy, active, protected life.

3) We had planned to build a residence better suited for a family than a couple, and keep the property as our own little get away. One where we could raise a family and have a couple dogs to go with our saved/rescued domestic cats. The property is zoned AL2 and although I question the actual appropriation of zoning in some cases in the area, this situation is actually ideal. The property does have zoning provisions for conservation and passive recreation among many other inclusions. If the protection of wildlife and ability to provide a safe habitat is not conservation, what is ? If the safety and security issues are addressed which clearly they have been, it should be afforded exclusions to the bylaw and be fully within zoning provision. With respect to the bylaw, clearly council can agree that exemptions can be made. Council has approved and hosted in collaboration with community groups a travelling road show of exotic animals and encourage family time learning about arachnids and serpents both venomous and not at local community centers. While this is not apples and apples, it does appear that the acceptance of this exemption would be far more ideal than previous accepted exemptions. The community benefits from taxes these people would be paying, not just a hall rental. The community benefits by having two more great people, expanding their existing business operations into Huron County and more specifically South Huron, and the cats benefit by having a home. A safe, secure, home.

In closing I again appreciate your time. While it has been documented that you have had a few concerned citizens corresponding, it should also be documented that there are supporters, and more so that your difficult task as politicians is to be open minded, to hear all situations individually, and to use all the information afforded to you by delegates and or staff, to make an educated decision on matters.

Did council read through and educate themselves on this matter? Did you educated yourselves on any questions or concerns using all available resources to you? Were the delegates contacted and afforded open communication to address any questions or concerns council may have had between delegation and subsequent meeting?

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