



Jeff Henderson <jeff@onemillionrevolutions.org>

in response to request letter

Jeff Henderson <jeff@genevapeeps.org>

Fri, Sep 12, 2014 at 1:00 PM

To: Ron Alcock <ralcock@geneva.ny.us>, Jackie Augustine <jaugustine@geneva.ny.us>, Tony DiCostanzo <tonyd@geneva.ny.us>, Ron Martino <ronm@geneva.ny.us>, pdamico@geneva.ny.us, svalentino@geneva.ny.us, "R. Ken Camera" <rkc@geneva.ny.us>, Jason Hagerman <jhagerman@geneva.ny.us>, jgreco@geneva.ny.us, "Mhorn@geneva.ny.us" <Mhorn@geneva.ny.us>
Cc: "Neal L. Braman" <NLB@geneva.ny.us>

City Councilors, mayor, and Manager Horn,

I am in receipt of your letter dated Sep. 3 and signed by Building Official Mr. Braman. My response here is to Council directly, because the basis of this issue does not lie in Code Enforcement. The State Street project has met all City requirements put forth and has been issued permission to be implemented.

At the outset of this project, I met with City staff to review all applicable Code provisions regarding 46/50 State Street. The property had been marketed by the City as an industrial parcel without any mention of setback requirements that could render it unusable for any purpose allowed by industrial zoning. And during the approval process, including at the July Planning Board meeting, all setback requirements were met. The project was fully approved and is proceeding.

The issue before us lies in the discomfort that a few residents, certain City Councilors, the City Attorney, and the mayor have with chickens being allowed within the city of Geneva.

As a result of personal opposition to this project, some Councilors, the mayor, and the City Attorney took it upon themselves to order a staff review of the project post-approval. The review began one month after the Planning Board decision, immediately following a Council meeting at which Council received a letter signed by six city residents requesting that the City "do something" to halt the approved project. I can find no public record of Council's discussion of what to do, when it should be done, and who should do it. However, I was brought into City Hall for a meeting with Mr. Braman where he revealed, as the designated spokesperson for concerns that he himself did not raise, that an argument could be made that a Zoning Board review was, in fact, required.

All prior correspondence from the City to that point indicated that project was in compliance with all relevant and applicable provisions of the Code. The Planning Board minutes reflect that Zoning Board review was discussed and determined to be unnecessary. And even though I was scheduled to appear before the Zoning Board the following evening, Mr. Braman himself withdrew the proposal from the Zoning Board agenda. His official determination was that the project had satisfied all review requirements, and based on that review a Building

Permit was issued for all relevant aspects.

I understand the issue. I am not prepared to jeopardize the entire project, which I and many other residents believe to be an overwhelmingly positive project for Geneva, without a thorough and public discussion of the actual concerns - and with the participation of those holding the concerns.

regards,
Jeff Henderson
399. S. Main Street