

TOWN OF NEW SCOTLAND PLANNING/ZONING BOARDS
COUNTY OF ALBANY

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IN RE APPLICATION OF CATHERINE DONATO

CATHERINE DONATO,

Petitioner.

**AFFIDAVIT OF
ANN NEANDER**

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STATE OF NEW YORK)
SS)
COUNTY OF ALBANY)

ANN NEANDER, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I reside at 64 Normanskill Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186. I have lived here for my entire life, and I have farmed the land here and sold produce, flowers chicken eggs and firewood to help my family survive. My family who lives with me consists of my son Art and his family, my mother Catherine who recently passed, and my brother Dale who is disabled and for whom my mother was guardian. My other brother Joe lives next door. Farming is a hardscrabble existence and over the years we have routinely survived on profits in the several thousands of dollars.

2. As the Board knows, my mother executed a lease formally joining our family's land such that we currently farm over 11 acres. As I understand it, this is permitted in New Scotland because it is over 7 acres, so long as we do not raise hogs or pigs. We do not raise hogs or pigs.

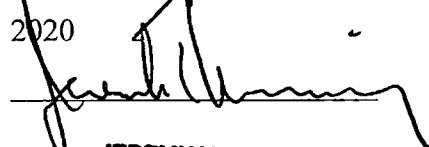
3. The main issue here that the Building Inspector Mr. Cramer raises is over the sale of firewood. My family has sold firewood from this parcel at 64 Normanskill Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186 for as long as I can remember, and at least since 1982. Witnesses

including Mr. Murray and Ms. Hahn have submitted sworn testimony to this effect and these affidavits are submitted with my affidavit. I understand that this "use" of the property is non-conforming to current zoning but that it should be grandfathered in by law. We desperately need the revenue we make from firewood sales in order to survive. We also need the wood so that my cousin Phil and I can cultivate our mushrooms for sale, which also bring in significant revenue (see my son Art's Affidavit). We also need the wood to heat our home – it is the only source of our heat for the winter. We use the wood for agriculture, as many generations of farmers over thousands of years have done. It is an essential aspect of our agriculture activities.

4. I have heard that the Building Inspector Mr. Cramer considers the wood to be an eyesore. We have previously helped our community by tearing down the carriage house where the wood was formerly sold when we were notified by Albany County transportation officials that it might help reduce accidents at the intersection of Krumkill and Normanskill Roads. There can be no doubt that we respond to help the community when needed. If the Board has suggestions in this regard, we will duly consider them. However, I want to restate and emphasize that we need the firewood sales to survive and to cultivate our crops and to heat our home for our family throughout the long winter.


Ann Neander

Sworn to this 13 day of August
2020



JEREMIAH F. MANNING
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 02MA6407235
Qualified in Albany County
Commission Expires 05/18/2024