



777 Dunn Rd

10.27.2021

ShyAnne Demers

Introduction

Thank you all for taking the time to review my application for the “as of right” wetlands permit.

Ever since I was young I had the dream of having my horses where I can overlook them from my house grazing amongst my property. When a family member of ours showed interest in selling their house, we thought what more perfect way to make our dreams a reality? So we purchased the house in November 2020.

The Northern portion of our property, we thought would be the best place to have my horses. This portion has previously housed a couple of goats for a number of years. The roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ acre that I'm requesting to clear has been fenced in and had agricultural animals that are notorious for destroying vegetation in the past. After speaking with the family member that was the previous owner of the property she informed me that the area at which I'm looking to house my horses, previously had a horse.

Although I may be “disturbing” wetlands with my plans for what I want to do, the area that has been deemed “wetlands” would simply be fenced in fields for turn out. I'm asking to use the land that I have on my property in an agricultural way that will improve the environment we live in. Horses improve soil quality by increasing the number of nutrients in the soil, and creating a better ecosystem for plants to grow. Increasing the productivity of the land in result leads to grass growth and helps prevent erosion.

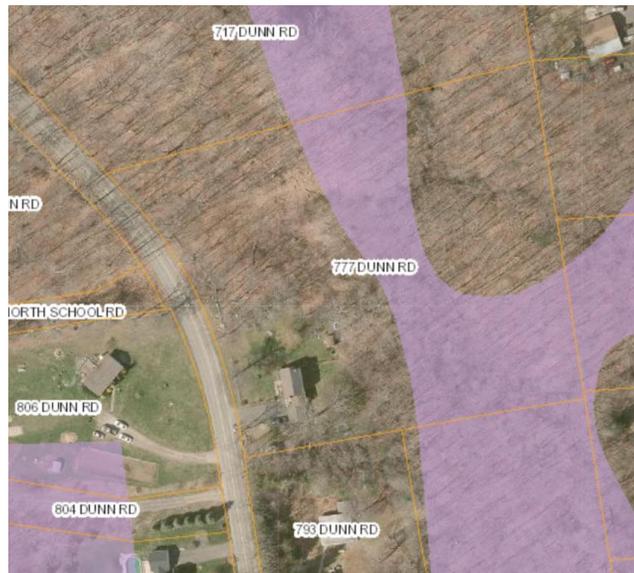
I'm requesting that I provide my horses with usable land that isn't going to result in health problems in the future. Turning horses out on wet land is not only far more destructive to the land itself, but it is also far worse for the horse's health.

If a horse is constantly turned out on wet soil, it can result in long term problems for the horse, such as thrust, white line disease, mud fever and scratches. Being a town that so proudly stands by the idea of agriculture and the education that can result from exposing it's youth to farm animals. I'm sure would understand the importance of ensuring the land is manicured in a way that best suits the needs of the animals on it.

What I'm requesting to do is provide my horses, whom have been the center of my life for the past 10 years a safe, healthy place to call home.

Overview

Unfortunately the back portion of my property is deemed wetlands according to nesoil.com, and more obviously represents the common “signs” of wetlands. The picture attached, represents the delineation according to nesoil.com. Because of the obvious wetlands in the back portion of our property, I had no choice but to request for an as-of right exception for me to put my horses in the northern/side portion of my property.



Putting them in the northern portion of my property is the only way to preserve the integrity of our wetlands while also allowing me to take advantage of the agricultural nature of our town. The photo below shows roughly the delineation that the soil scientist that I hired Richard Snarski obtained while on my property. *(Please know that I only asked that he provide me with a wetlands delineation of the area at which I had proposed originally to Mindy Gosselin months ago.)*

Because we purchased the property from a family member, we know a bit about the history of this portion of the property. With the help of Mindy we were able to obtain some photos that show the



property had already had these wetlands cleared in the past.

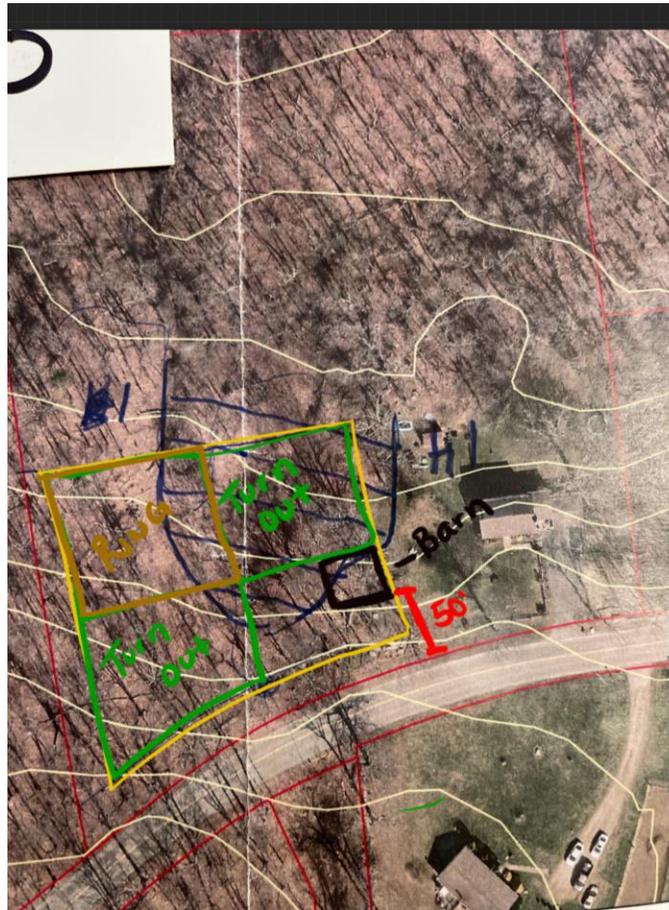
Please see the below photo for a 2003 Aerial shot that depicts that this land had been cleared in the past.



See below for the 2006 aerial as well.



To ensure the health and safety of my horses, I'm requesting to clear the area at which will be their turn out and bring fill in to level the ground. The area at which I'm requesting to clear, fill and level is represented below on an aerial photo of our property.



This would provide an ideal environment for vegetation growth, and sustainability. I plan to once the ground is leveled, bring in topsoil and plant vegetation for them to graze on while in their paddocks.

The area where I plan to put my barn, needs to be 50ft from the property line, and is represented in the photo above. The barn would be roughly 30'X32' This is in an area in which the building reduces the interference with the wetlands, and the soil scientist advised it would be the best place for not only the longevity of the building, but the preservation of the wetlands.

I appreciate you taking the time to look over my proposal, and what I would ideally be able to do with my property.