

Transcript of Administrative Hearing

Date: January 5, 2018

Case: Jennifer Nelson Equestrian Facility

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1	OFFICE OF ZONING AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS	1	(Proceedings began at 11:30 a.m.)
2	FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND	2	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Are you ready to
3	х	3	proceed? All right, then I'll call the case.
4	In Re: :	4	This is a public hearing in the matter of
5	JENNIFER NELSON : Case No. CU 18-02	5	Jennifer Nelson. OZA CU No. 18-02. An application pursuant
6	EQUESTRIAN FACILITY :	6	to Zoning Ordinance Section 59.3.2.4.B for a conditional
7	x	7	use to allow an equestrian facility for up to two horses on
8		8	3.91 acres of land in the RA2 residential zone.
9	HEARING	9	The site is located at 12719 River Road in
10	Before Hearing Examiner Martin Grossman	1	Potomac, Maryland. It's 1,400 feet west of Stoney Creek
11	Rockville, Maryland		Road and 1,200 feet east of Dalyn Drive. It is Parcel 2A of
12	Friday, January 5, 2018	- 1	Plat 4809 in the Frank Taylor subdivision.
13	11:30 a.m.	13	
14		1 -	Examiner, which means I will take evidence here and write a
15			report and decision in the case.
16		16	-
17			the record, please?
18		18	_
19		19	
20		20	_
21			·
22	Tah. 172071	21	ŕ
	Job: 172871 Pages: 1 - 24	22	
	Pages: 1 - 24 Transcribed by: Ellen L. Simone	23	2 ,
23	n ansortbed by. Lifen E. Simone	- 1	the co-owner of the property.
		25	<u> </u>
1	2 APPEARANCES	1	4 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. All right.
2	JENNIFER NELSON, Applicant	2	And I see nobody else in the audience. Usually at
3	KIRK NELSON	3	this time, if there is somebody else here who wishes to
4		4	make a statement, we would invite them to identify
5		5	themselves, also.
6	CONTENTS	6	Let me explain a little bit about the nature of
7	PAGE	7	these proceedings. They are a combination of formality and
8	TESTIMONY BY MRS. NELSON 12	8	informality. All witnesses are sworn in. They are subject
9			to cross examination, if anybody were here to cross examine
10		9	you. I suspect that your husband won't do that.
11	EXHIBITS		
12	PAGE	11	2
13	Exhibit 36 Affidavit of posting 6	12	, ,
14	Exhibit 30C Site plan 9		is recorded by court reporter. There will be a transcript
15			of that.
16		15	,
17			which is not a variance, it doesn't vary from the statute.
18			A conditional use, which used to be called a special
19			exception, but more appropriately called a conditional use,
20			it's a use that's approved by the Zoning Board if certain
21			conditions are met, and as specified, both for the type of
22		21	conditional use and, in general, for almost all conditional
23		22	uses.
24		23	And those the technical staff report, the
25		24	report of the technical staff of the Maryland-National
í		125	Capital Park and Planning Commission, which you should have

_	Conducted on .	ui.	
1	a copy of, goes through those those standards. Okay.	,	7 Okov
1		1	Okay.
2	Let me first of all, let me swear you both in.	2	Next thing. One of the conditions proposed by the technical staff was that you be allowed up to three horses.
3	Would you raise your right hands, please? Do you swear or	3	•
4	affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but	4	I noticed that you have applied only for two horses. What
5	the truth under penalty of perjury?	5	do you prefer as the condition if this were granted?
6	MRS. NELSON: Yes.	6	MRS. NELSON: I would prefer to have the
7	MR. NELSON: Yes.	7	flexibility of three
8	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay.	8	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay.
9	Second thing. The staff report recommends	9	MRS. NELSON: but I'm happy to be here today
10	**		just having this heard
	conditions.	11	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay.
12	17	12	MRS. NELSON: so
13		13	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Your plan is for two-
14		14	
15		15	MRS. NELSON: Yes.
	to adopt the findings and conclusions and analysis of that	16	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: but you'd like the
17	staff report as part of your testimony here?		flexibility
18	MRS. NELSON: Yes.	18	MRS. NELSON: Yes.
19	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. Make sure you	19	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: for three.
20	speak up loud enough for them to	20	Okay. All right.
21	MRS. NELSON: Oh, yes.	21	And I noticed, when I look over your plan, I
22	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: to record it. Okay.	22	5 1
23	Also, the technical staff proposed certain	23	1 1
	conditions. If this is granted, do you accept those	24	those but the 20 by 10
25	conditions?	25	MRS. NELSON: Yes.
	6		8
1	MRS. NELSON: Yes.	1	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: prefab.
2	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. The affidavit of	2	MRS. NELSON: I
3	posting. You have a blank copy with you. And why don't we	3	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: I see a I see on
4	call that we're gonna label that as a new exhibit here.	4	here where it says the manure composting facility.
5	That will be Exhibit 36. And if you wouldn't mind, just	5	By the way, is that there already, the manure
6	write that at the bottom of the blank affidavit of posting.	6	composting facility?
7	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Do you need a pen?	7	MRS. NELSON: No.
8	MRS. NELSON: Yes. Does it matter what color?	8	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay.
9	UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Oh, you've got one.	9	MR. NELSON: (Inaudible).
10		10	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: So that is an addition
	what color?		to the to the site that will be
12		12	MRS. NELSON: Yeah. It's yeah, it's just a
13		13	£ /3
14	wife, don't write in red in the checkbook, but	14	on it just to keep everything contained. It's
15	MRS. NELSON: Ha ha.	15	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay.
16	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: but black	16	MRS. NELSON: really easy to do.
17		17	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: It's not a covered
18	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: or blue will do	18	structure?
19	there.	19	MRS. NELSON: We can cover it with a tarp.
20	MRS. NELSON: Exhibit 36?	20	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Well, I'm not
21	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Yes.	21	suggesting you do. I don't know what's
22	And so before the record closes, you can sign	22	MRS. NELSON: Yeah.
22			
	that in front of a notary	23	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: appropriate for
	-		HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: appropriate for that sort of thing.

	Conducted on January 5, 2018			
,	9	1 MDC NELCON, Do vou		
	anything.	1 MRS. NELSON: Do you		
2	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. But can you show	2 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: which is this.		
3	me. Here's a copy of your site plan, which is Exhibit 30B.	3 MRS. NELSON: That's fine. I don't need to write		
4	And maybe what we'll do is we'll call this 30C. And if you	4 that anywhere.		
5	would draw in the location of the the shed on it?	5 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: No.		
6	Because I don't see it. The barn?	6 MRS. NELSON: Okay.		
7	MR. NELSON: That's actually the shed right there.	7 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Just to clarify I		
8	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: All right. Well, the	8 guess we call it a clarified version of the existing site		
9	arrow points back to a caption that says it's the	9 plan. Okay? All right.		
10	composting facility.	10 All right. Next item. I know that you're in a		
11	MR. NELSON: Yeah. It looks like	11 hurry to get a decision here. I mentioned that if the case		
12	MRS. NELSON: Oh.	12 had to be continued, I would offer you I would have an		
13	MR. NELSON: (Inaudible).	13 expedited transcript. I can't offer that without your		
14	MRS. NELSON: Yeah. That's the shed right there.	14 paying for it now that the case is not continued, but if		
15	MR. NELSON: Okay. So you want me to I can just	15 you wish to, we can order it on 48-hour turn around. That		
16	write on here.	16 would cost an extra \$2 a page, which you can make a check		
17	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: All right. So this is	17 out for to the County, if you want that. And then it would		
18	actually not a composting facility	18 the transcript should be here by next Tuesday, and I'm		
19	MR. NELSON: That is.	19 pretty sure I can get my report out by the end of that		
20	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: All right.	20 week.		
21	MRS. NELSON: That is, sir. I didn't realize	21 Would that be		
22	MR. NELSON: The composting facility is right	22 MRS. NELSON: Yes, please.		
23	behind it, and	23 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: what you'd like to		
24	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: I see.	24 do?		
25	MR. NELSON: then that's the actual it's a	25 MRS. NELSON: Yes, sir.		
	10	12		
1	200 square foot structure.	1 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. All right. So my		
2	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: So you're saying this	2 my staff will let you know what the final amount is when		
3	structure right here below the dotted line or this one	3 we get the bill from the from the court reporter for it.		
4	above? Which is the shed?	4 And we would like to then have this on a 48-hour		
5	MR. NELSON: This is the shed right here.	5 turnaround?		
6	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. Right above or	6 THE CLERK: Right.		
7	north of, I guess you'd say.	7 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: All right.		
8	MR. NELSON: Yes. And then this is the composting	8 MRS. NELSON: Thank you for offering that.		
9	facility.	9 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Yeah. I don't think		
10	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Oh, okay. Okay. All	10 it's going to be I mean, it's going to be a short		
11	right. Well, then I can just if everybody's agreeable,	11 transcript so it's not going to be that much extra.		
	I'll just write on here an arrow and that's (inaudible) for	12 MRS. NELSON: It's cheaper than paying what I'm		
	that.	13 paying right now.		
14	MR. NELSON: (Inaudible) territory here.	14 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay, good. Good.		
15	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Then shed. Barn. Okay.	15 All right. Any other preliminary or procedural		
16	MRS. NELSON: Huh.	16 matters?		
17	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: All right. So maybe	17 MRS. NELSON: No, sir.		
18	you could come up and take a look, Ms. Nelson, and just say	18 MR. NELSON: No.		
19	that's that I've properly captioned that and how that's	19 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: All right. Now, I'll -		
20	the location of the shed and barn?	20 - I will open the floor for your testimony, whatever you		
21	MRS. NELSON: Yes.	21 want to say.		
22	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Is that correct?	MRS. NELSON: We've had the horses with us at our		
	MDC MELCON, Vac	100 1 41 1 41 1 1 1 4 4 1 1 7		
23	MRS. NELSON: Yes.	23 last house and everything's worked great. And we've I		
23 24	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. All right. Then	23 last nouse and everytning's worked great. And we've 1 24 mean, my Master's is in sustainability and agriculture, and 25 I feel like that's what I'm dedicated to doing.		

	13		15
1	And we spoke with the neighbors last night, and	1	property?
2	they're on board with what our plan is, and they're not	2	MRS. NELSON: Yes.
3	worried about any safety problems anymore.	3	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. All right. And
4	And, I mean, we'll do everything we can just to	4	the photographs were in Exhibit 18A through T.
5	keep enhancing the property and taking really good care of	5	Who took all those photographs?
6	the horses. So	6	MR. NELSON: I did.
7	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. Yes. I saw that	7	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Mr. Nelson? Okay. And
8	you're well-educated	8	approximately when did you take those?
9	MRS. NELSON: Yeah.	9	MR. NELSON: Approximately, I would say it was
10	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: in this area, so	10	
11	then that shouldn't be a problem.	11	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay.
12		12	-
13	there are numerous conditions, including following Maryland	13	submitted everything.
14	rules about how you handle this this sort of thing,	14	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: July or August of last
15	which you've agreed to do	15	year.
16	-	16	MR. NELSON: Of last year.
17	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: and which would be	17	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay.
18	conditions of the conditional use.	18	MRS. NELSON: Sorry, yeah.
19	All right. By the way, did you have anything else	19	MR. NELSON: 2017.
20	you wanted to add (inaudible).	20	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. And they
21	MRS. NELSON: I mean, what I plan to do is just	21	accurately depict the situation as it is today?
	take as many classes as I can through Virgin like they	22	
23	have an extension program for agriculture, and then, you	23	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Other than maybe a
24	know, just keep working with like the work groups they have	24	little snow on the ground?
25	just to keep taking all of their recommendations.	25	MR. NELSON: Yeah. Snow, and then yeah.
	14		16
1	I used to work when we lived in Virginia, I	1	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. Okay. And the
2	volunteered with Virginia Cooperative Extension as a master	2	staff report also had a couple of photos of their own.
3	free volunteer, and so I'm familiar with the way the	3	Aerial photos. I take it that their aerial photo in Figure
4	extension offices work, and I feel like they're the best	4	1 of the subject property on page 3, that accurately
5	resources, so	5	represents your property?
6	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: All right. And you	6	A DOG A VIEW GOAL AV
7		6	MRS. NELSON: Yes.
	understand there would be no no rental of the horses	7	MRS. NELSON: Yes. HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. And they also
8	understand there would be no no rental of the horses MRS. NELSON: Oh, no. No way.		
8 9		7	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. And they also
9	MRS. NELSON: Oh, no. No way.	7 8 9	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. And they also had, on Figure 3, they had a larger view depicting that
9	MRS. NELSON: Oh, no. No way. HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: and no equestrian shows and that kind of thing.	7 8 9	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. And they also had, on Figure 3, they had a larger view depicting that defined neighborhood. You I take it you agree to that
9 10	MRS. NELSON: Oh, no. No way. HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: and no equestrian shows and that kind of thing. MRS. NELSON: Yes.	7 8 9 10	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. And they also had, on Figure 3, they had a larger view depicting that defined neighborhood. You I take it you agree to that their definition of the neighborhood? MRS. NELSON: Yes.
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_	Conducted on January 5, 2018		
	MD NIELSON, It has		MRS NELSON: Okov
1	MR. NELSON: It has.	1	MRS. NELSON: Okay. HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: cost is, so my
2	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: All right. And I take it from the staff report that you're not adding any	2	staff will let you know what the extra
3		3	•
4	you're going to add some additional fencing for the horses	4	MRS. NELSON: And I'll just HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: cost is
5	MD NELCON Med Learn	5	
6	MR. NELSON: Mm-hmm.	6	MRS. NELSON: drop it bring it down.
7	MRS. NELSON: Mm-hmm.	7	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: and then you can
8	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: but you're not	8	just drop it off. And it would be made out to Montgomery
9	adding additional screening, et cetera. That's not	9	County.
10	,	10	MRS. NELSON: Okay.
11	MRS. NELSON: They said that we didn't need to.	11	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay? All right.
12	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Right. And you weren't	12	I think that's all that I have on my list.
13		13	I told you it would be a brief hearing, and
14	MRS. NELSON: None, no.	14	there's no reason to to make it longer than it need be.
15	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay.	15	Do you have anything else that you wanted to add
16	MRS. NELSON: The house already has spotlights on	16	before we close it out today?
17	the corners	17	MRS. NELSON: No, sir.
18	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Right.	18	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: All right. Then we are
19	MRS. NELSON: but since I'm an energy moger	19	
20	(sic), and so	20	MRS. NELSON: Thank you. Is that a record?
21	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay, yeah. That's one	21	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: It's pretty close.
22	of the issues some of the the code provisions do not	22	MR. NELSON: Could I ask, so we have the sign
23	apply. If there's no new lighting, you don't go through an	23	is still in the front of the yard. Do we need to keep that
24	exercise of determining the effects of the lighting,	24	up?
25	although it's been indicated in the report that it won't	25	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Yeah. As it's
	18		20
1	interfere with the neighbors	1	indicated on the affidavit of posting, you should keep it
2	MRS. NELSON: No.	2	up keep it there until
3	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: so that's one of	3	MR. NELSON: Tuesday?
4	the issues that is is considered in these cases. That is	4	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: 10 days after
5	it's essentially a question of impact on the neighbors.	5	MR. NELSON: Okay.
6	All right. Let's see if we have anything else	6	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: I decide the case,
7	here that needs to be addressed. I don't think so. All	7	because people have a right within 10 days after the
8	right. Since we'll get the transcript by next Tuesday,	8	decision is issued to request oral argument before the
9	which 6, 7, 8 will be the 9th, we'll close the record	9	Board of Appeals.
10	at close of business on January 9, 2018. Okay?	10	MR. NELSON: Okay.
11	And I presume you want to admit all of the	11	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: If nobody requests
12	exhibits that have been filed. So all of the exhibits, 1	12	oral argument, you can take it down then and return it to
13	through 36 which also includes the the clarified	13	us, and there will be a partial refund for it
	conditional use site plan and the affidavit of posting	14	MR. NELSON: Okay.
15	will be admitted.	15	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: returning it
16	You can check on the sixth floor, or wherever it	16	(inaudible).
	is they told you they have a notary available, to get that	17	MR. NELSON: Okay.
	notarized and you can drop it off in my office.	18	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: If for some reason
19			somebody and it would be unusual in this situation
	just make sure it gets to our office by Tuesday so that it	20	
	will be in before the record closes.	21	MRS. NELSON: Right.
22		22	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: because
	by?	23	(inaudible) can go to court, too.
24			MR. NELSON: Yeah.
	what the extra	25	HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: It doesn't happen very
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Conducted on January 3, 2018		
21	1 ymynyd carditional yca I carlt thirty of army othors right	
often, especially unopposed, as this is.	1 unusual conditional use. I can't think of any others right	
2 MR. NELSON: Yeah. Okay. Yeah. I just wanted to	2 now that have that that condition. But for some reason,	
3 make sure. I assume the sign comes back here.	3 I guess it was carried over from the old code, equestrian	
4 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Yes.	4 facilities have to be renewed every five years. You can	
5 MR. NELSON: So I wanted to make sure	5 just file an application with our office	
6 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: (Inaudible).	6 MRS. NELSON: I don't have to go through the whole	
7 MR. NELSON: when you need it back. Okay. But	7 like Aria, or Ari, whatever, that study?	
8 it makes sense.	8 MR. NELSON: Oh, yeah.	
9 MRS. NELSON: So after 10 days.	9 MRS. NELSON: I can't remember. We went through	
MR. NELSON: So 10 days 10 days after Tuesday.	10 all the studies, and then we it was like	
HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Yes, sir. Well, no. 10	MR. NELSON: The natural resources inventory and -	
12 days after I issue my report and decision.	12 -	
13 MR. NELSON: Okay.	MRS. NELSON: We don't have to do all that?	
14 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: As I say, we have 30	14 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: I think so. I mean	
15 days to issue a report and decision, or we can extend that	15 frankly, I've never done one so I	
16 time, too.	16 (End of proceedings at 11:50 a.m.)	
17 MR. NELSON: Yeah.	17	
18 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: I almost never extend	18	
19 my time (inaudible).	19	
20 MR. NELSON: Yeah.	20	
21 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: And I'm sure in this	21	
22 particular case we (inaudible) to the end of the week.	22	
23 MR. NELSON: Okay.	23	
24 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: End of next week. So	24	
25 (inaudible).	25	
22	24	
MR. NELSON: Yes.	1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER	
2 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: (Inaudible) so 10 days	2 I, ELLEN L. SIMONE, do hereby certify that the	
3 after that's issued. You'll receive a notice	3 foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the	
4 MR. NELSON: Okay.	4 recorded proceedings; that said proceedings were	
5 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: a formal notice	5 transcribed to the best of my ability from the audio	
6 that the report (inaudible) has been issued and it will be	6 recording and supporting information; and that I am neither	
7 available on our website (inaudible) also.	7 counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties	
8 MR. NELSON: Okay.	8 to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise,	
9 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: The notice usually	9 in its outcome.	
10 says if it's granted, it will say it's granted, and here	10	
11 are the conditions, and (inaudible) cite the rest to	11	
12 look at the whole thing.	12 Eller L. Simon	
13 MRS. NELSON: All right.	13 ELLEN L. SIMONE	
MR. NELSON: Okay.	14 January 7, 2018	
15 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Because I have your	15	
16 email address, I can just give you a copy of that.	16	
17 MR. NELSON: Okay.	17	
10 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100		
MRS. NELSON: You make things easy. Okay.	18	
19 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. All right. Does	18 19	
19 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. All right. Does 20 that work for you?	18 19 20	
 19 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. All right. Does 20 that work for you? 21 MR. NELSON: Yes, perfectly. 	18 19 20 21	
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19 HEARING EXAMINER GROSSMAN: Okay. All right. Does 20 that work for you? 21 MR. NELSON: Yes, perfectly. 22 MRS. NELSON: And then, I was reading somewhere 23 that you have to go through the process every five years to	18 19 20 21 22 23	
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