

To Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals:

I am a resident of PI and an abutter of 37 Ballfield Road. There is no "personal vendetta" on my part, nor am I "one unhappy, meddling neighbor," as one of the letters addressed to you states.

My name is Timmi Sellers, and I have owned property on the island for 4 years. I am a hard-working, 3 year member of the Peaks Island Council, started and am presently chair of the Council's Zoning Committee, the Board's representative to the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable and the All Island Council, a member of the Zoning Advisory Committee of Homestart, a non-profit on the island that advocates for affordable housing, a member of the Peaks Island Community Emergency Response Team, a board member of the Peaks Environmental Action Team, and a working RN still active in the Portland nonprofit community, a mother and grandmother. A belief in community building motivates me to volunteer many hours to the common good of my new home.

Some of you may remember me from 2014 when similar type issues came before your Board. Although I believe some of those issues also need to be readdressed, especially the Shoreland Protection area that is part of this property (and mine), and the definition of a "farm" along with "best practices", that is NOT WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY.

Letters from others mostly speak to the desire to keep the horses on the island. I too support that issue, and will work with others in the community (and hopefully the property owner) to ensure that the horse camp and boarders can safely stay on the island. BUT THAT IS NOT WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY.

Others say the buildings do not negatively impact any neighbors. I can testify that is not true, BUT THAT IS NOT WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY.

We are here today because in 2015, when a barn was built to board summer horses, I asked the city if it was permitted. The reason I asked is because it was built in a Shoreland Protected area and was easily visible from my property. A neighbor had been denied a permit to build in similar areas of his property. I was told by the zoning department I could not build on this area of my property so naturally I was concerned when a new barn went up there. The barn was not permitted. I knew nothing about the other buildings cited in this violation since I have never seen them, was unaware of their existence, indeed, have never been on Mr. Johnson's property. We are here to determine if Mr. Johnson should be exempted from even seeking a building permit for many buildings when he has numerous commercial businesses established on his property. He rents cargo container space to individuals for personal storage, stores boats, has storage of other commercial vehicles on his land year-round that do not belong to him, dumps compost and brush from many island landscape contractors, rents space to horse owners and the Horse Island Camp-those are just the commercial operations I am aware of on his property that is zoned IR-2. We are here today to determine if all these operations should be exempt from basic safety issues and community protections that would be derived from going through the permitting process like everyone else on the island.

I strongly urge you to show equality under the law, concern for the safety of the public and our island community and very simply hold Mr. Johnson to the same standard as all residents of the city of Portland.

Timmi Sellers

89 Pleasant Ave

Peaks Island