

43 SPECIAL EXCEPTION APPEAL Please describe the special exception. Add supporting exhibits, documents, sketches, photographs, maps and other relevant material to be made a part of this application that will help support your request.

We are applying for a special exception to own 6 domesticated chickens on our .43 acre property in Yarmouth. When our daughter was in middle school, she had requested several times for us to get young chickens and we thought it was a great way to teach her responsibility including the building of a chicken run, the caring for, feeding, watering and cleaning of the flock. We asked her to do all the research including looking up the town ordinances. She reported back that we could have chickens, but there were restrictions on how many and there could not be any roosters. I did not follow up to learn that a special exception was required or we would have done so prior to getting chickens. It wasn't until we received the letter from Mr. Ciarimboli that we realized that we had not followed our town ordinance. Hence our submittal of this special exception appeal.



Chicken run and coop behind Carriage House (Garage) and Shed

LOCATION. We have .43 acres and 6 chickens. We are fortunate to have a large backyard and the chicken coop and run are located in the center of our property (See photo below). We had allowed our chickens to free range as all three of our neighbors were pleased with the chickens keeping the tick population down, but eventually the chickens began to roam beyond our yard, so we decided to keep them in their 8-foot by 8-foot run. I built two additions to the run (the

white structures that can be seen in the right side of the photo) to allow the chickens some time outside the run.



Chicken coop and run in large backyard as seen from Baker Street

SANITATION AND SECURITY. We purchased our chicken coop from another chicken owner on Cousins Island. It was commercially made. I built the chicken run after reviewing several plans on the internet. We wanted the run to be unobtrusive, yet conveniently accessible for our daughter, so we located it behind our carriage house (garage) and adjacent to the shed where we keep our lawn and garden tools as well as chicken supplies.

The run is constructed of pressure treated lumber with a sloped clear plastic cover to allow sunlight, but to protect the run from snow and rain. It has a full size door for easy access and has a latch to ensure it cannot be opened except by humans. The run is completely enclosed and protected by wire fencing that extends approximately six inches below the surface of the ground on all sides to prevent predator intrusion. There is a gutter system to collect rain runoff and prevent it from pooling.

I added a chicken “apartment” to allow sufficient roosting room for all six hens along with a perching bar for elevated viewing of backyard activities. The apartment has a removable floor that allows for easier cleaning of the used pine shavings.

The water and food dispensers hang below the apartment and are protected from the elements. The water dispenser is heated to allow fresh water in the winter months.

We have only hens for our personal use and do not intend to breed them or produce fertilizer for commercial purposes, nor would we slaughter a chicken onsite. If one dies, as one has, we dispose of it promptly. We are doing all that we can to minimize attraction of predators to the property, including keeping their home clean and free of infestation.



Pre-fabricated coop and DIY run made of wire fence and pressure treated lumber

Both the coop and apartment floor are covered with an inch or two of pine shavings that are replaced every week. The floor of the run is a mixture of dirt, shavings and sand to absorb any waste from the chickens. It is frequently turned over to enhance the mulching effect.



Chicken “apartment” and perching bar with water and food dispensers

Answers to sections in Special Exception Form

1. The floor of our chicken coop is covered with a generous amount of pine shavings. It is cleaned out weekly. The floor of the run is a mixture of dirt, shavings and sand to absorb any waste from the chickens that is turned weekly to enhance composting.
2. None – coop is located within our backyard.
3. None
4. No cause for concern with regard to erosion or drainage.
5. The chicken home is to scale and tucked away into a corner of the large backyard. It is located far away from the main house, on the opposite side of the garage and is well distanced from neighbor property lines.
6. Not applicable
7. (Below)
8. Yes and yes
9. Six hens