

**2. A written narrative explaining what is proposed, with any facts the applicant feels are pertinent.**

**Detailed explanation for the request of a Special Use Permit for Residential Chickens**

**Submitted by Christine O'Connor**

**For use at 9 Stablegate Drive, Ballston Lake**

**Explanation of Project**

I am applying for a special use permit to have up to six backyard chickens (hens) at my home. The chickens will be kept as pets who happen to lay eggs. The proposed chickens will be living in my fruit and vegetable garden towards the back of my property. A small, tasteful, coop will be used to house the chickens and not be visible from the road.

**Supporting Information**

I am applying to the Town of Ballston for a Special Use permit to have up to six backyard chickens at my residential property. To be concise, I will briefly list pertinent facts that I feel support my request:

- A. My ownership of backyard chickens directly supports the “Vision and Goals” of the Town of Ballston.
- B. My ownership of backyard chickens is in harmony with the current use of the land by both myself and my neighbors.

**A. My ownership of backyard chickens directly supports the Vision and Goals of Ballston Lake**

In the Draft Comprehensive Plan presented to the Town Board on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Town “Vision and Goals” were stated:

*The Town of Ballston aspires to **preserve its working agricultural lands, natural resources, and high-quality life as it continues to accommodate residential and commercial growth** in targeted areas of the community. The Town seeks to **maintain the small town and rural character that are the roots of the Ballston community**, while continuing to manage growth and **embrace new approaches to clean energy, land conservation and community connections leading to a bright future for multiple generations.***

**“preserve its working agricultural lands, natural resources, and high-quality life as it continues to accommodate residential and commercial growth”**

The development where my home is located, Kelley Farms, was once owned by Stanley Kelley, a dairy farmer who worked here on his family farm. Raising pet chickens for eggs is in alignment with the former agricultural use of this land, however, accomplishing this on a pet-scale is more appropriate for its current residential use. Being allowed pet chickens will also enhance my life in multiple ways; fresh food, learning and teaching opportunities for my family, a nitrogen-rich source of nutrients for my compost pile, and the entertainment and companionship that pet ownership provides.



Figure 1- The Garden. Fruits and vegetables are grown in the back garden. The proposed chickens will reside in this portion of my yard.

***“maintain the small town and rural character that are the roots of the Ballston community”***

As a resident of Ballston, I appreciate the effort of the town to preserve this aspect of our community. The back portion of my yard has been set aside as a “micro-farm,” where I grow fruits and vegetables. My children and their neighborhood friends can pick berries and eat veggies that they’ve grown. Having chickens in this portion of my garden and establishing a residential “microfarm” would enhance the agricultural and rural character of my yard. Being able to share compost, eggs, and knowledge with my neighbors enhances the small town feel of the community.



Figure 2- The Garden. A wandering cow from the property behind me makes their way into my backyard

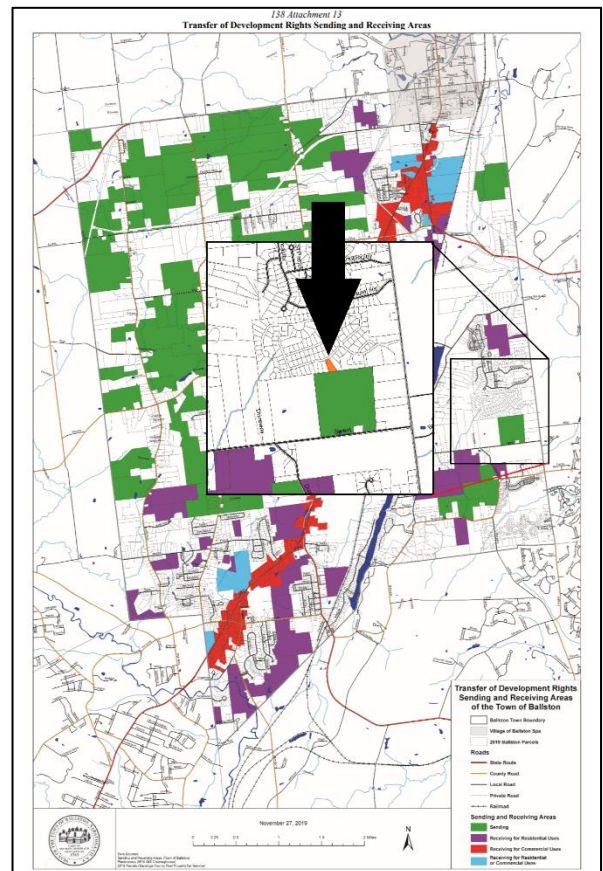
***“embrace new approaches to clean energy, land conservation”***

Growing one’s own food while minimizing reliance on food grown and shipped using fossil fuels, and participating in nutrient cycles on a local scale, are direct ways that individuals in the Town of Ballston can support clean energy and land conservation initiatives. Additionally, the use of chickens in an integrated pest management plan for home crops is an environmentally friendly way to minimize or eliminate the need for pesticides in a home vegetable garden, while composting chicken waste allows one to minimize reliance on synthetic fertilizers. Chicken ownership allows me and my family to participate in these initiatives and strategies.

**B. My ownership of backyard chickens is in harmony with the current use of the land by both myself and my neighbors.**

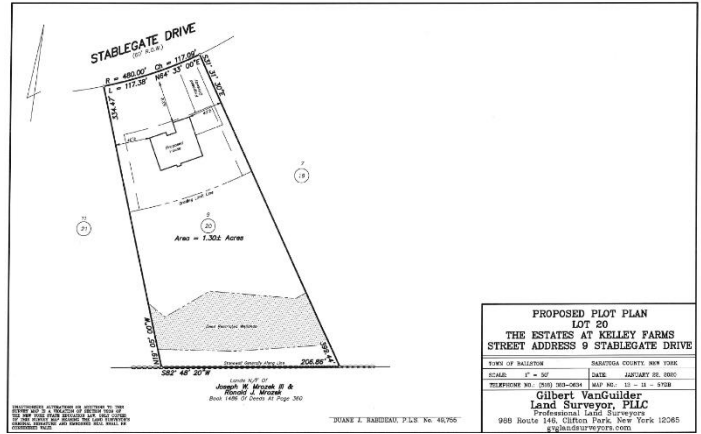
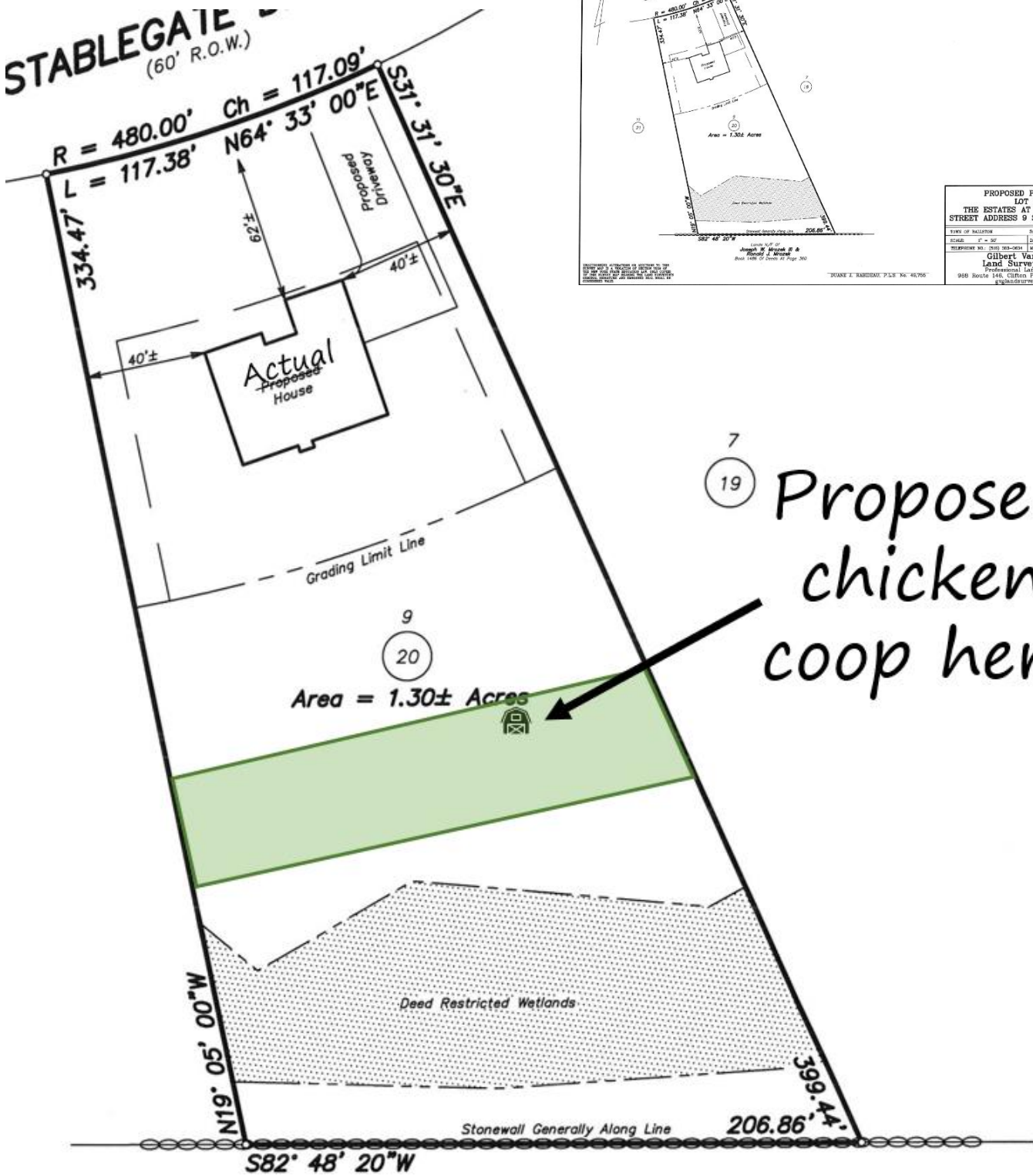
As previously noted, the property (shown in orange on the map to the right) where I am requesting permission to have pet chickens is located in Kelley Farms. This land was a working dairy farm prior to being developed for residential purposes. The property directly to the south of mine is currently a working dairy farm. The neighbors on both sides of me also border this same dairy farm. Furthermore, this farm has transferred development rights, and will likely remain a farm and in use for agricultural purposes for some time. A small, backyard, fruit and vegetable garden, complete with pet chickens complements the aesthetic of our rural-residential backyards.

The chicken coop and run will be located in the fruit and vegetable garden on the property. The proposed coop will occupy a spot approximately 5’ x 12’, although the chickens will be allowed to forage in the fully-fenced garden during the day. The chicken waste will be managed using the deep-bed method for chickens and will be composted for use in the garden. Six chickens make waste equivalent to two dogs, and I do not anticipate that this will affect my neighbors, as I do not want to smell chickens in my own yard and would address any issue that may arise before it affects my neighbors.





3. A Plot Plan if available, and if not, then a drawing to scale.



#### 4. Sketch of the proposed improvements.

This is the proposed chicken coop, drawn in SketchUp. There is a person for scale. The coop footprint is approximately 5' x 12', and is ~8' high (not including the cupola).

