

## OCAS Board mtg., February 19, 2014, 6:30PM

Good evening! My name is Marilyn Kille. I've come here tonight to ask for your help.

I own Peppermint Spring Farm, the southern-most of the historic farms that remain along Carrboro's west side. Some may recall how, for nearly two decades PSF was a resource for OCAS -- using its truck/trailer to transport and our barn to stable injured or stray livestock; assisting with outreach clinics and fund-raising; and rehabilitating hunting-bred dogs deemed salvageable but which, otherwise, exhibit poorly when confined. In fact, at age 12 my daughter became OCAS' youngest approved volunteer after which for years she regularly promoted OCAS programs at area malls and events.

Sadly, we ceased doing such about seven years ago when some terrible things began to regularly impact our farm, livestock, pets, my family, and me. And, because I continue to feel helpless to resolve these matters, tonight I'm turning to you for help. Or at least, for your understanding!

Private interests long associated with Carrboro have targeted all remaining farms to serve development interests by year-end 2014. Mine included! But, the evidence also indicates a particular interest in my farm because much of my land is not -- or should not be -- subjected to state and federal watershed regulations that greatly limit development options -- which for three decades the town has indicated it is.

[SEE purple line on 2013-OWASA GIS map]

According to OWASA, the purple line on its GIS map (2013) defines the restricted watershed. Note that much of my land -- its road front -- is east of this line. And, thus, (a) should have unlimited development uses and (b) be of value similar to that of Autumns Wood Apts. across the street (currently valued a \$365,000 per acre w/o buildings). Instead, through another ruse, my and all remaining 2,000 acres of my neighbors' land has been devalued to about \$11,650 per acre -- and positioned to benefit urban development at this time.

Of the above, there is no doubt! This gradually has been revealed since 2007. Since 2011 I've served as an adviser to the NC Legislature regarding the enabling conflicts in local, county and state laws involving agriculture, land-use and environment. Believe me, there are many laws which stem from the extraordinary success of developers' lobbying efforts.

For example, until a landmark law was adopted in June 2011, for decades municipalities widely and regularly "*involuntarily annex*" privately-owned land while disregarding owners of Constitutionally-guaranteed rights to "due process" or "just compensation". Large farm parcels immediately outside towns were the #1 targets. Recall how Cary in merely 13 years grew from 7,800 to 146,000 (2010 U.S. Census) and you'll get the picture!

Please note? I'm prepared to confirm anything I say hear by offering the names of public officials and experts at all levels of government, including that of local, county, state, and federal law enforcement.

Otherwise, in August 2008 a town planning official confirmed why my farm was targeted by saying, "*It would be prohibitively expensive for the town to leapfrog over your land to bring water and sewer to the parcels north of your farm slated for future development*".

By the way, those "*parcels north of [my] farm*" are located up to and north of Calvander, including Hogan Farm, owned by the Hogan family since 1754. Unknown to them, in 2006 their farm was rezoned "*Transition Area #1 -- Future Commercial Development*" (per Carrboro's 2006+ zoning maps).

## ***What does this nightmare have to do with OCAS?***

Since 2006 unimaginable effort has been brought to bear to acquire my farm without development interests having to pay for it. This includes poisonings of my animals; failure of officials to document reports of repeated vandalism; and efforts to ensure that my animals are at risk of being harmed on roadways or of harming others – for which NC's law would hold me accountable. And, consequently, to repeatedly violate OCAS regulations.

How?

Soon after Autumns Wood Apts. was completed in 1997, tenants' children began standing on and breaking down board fencing to view my animals. Some of my herd would escape. \$25,000 spent doubling my roadside fence – offset by a 10-foot wide aisle – hasn't stopped this.

SEE pic taken of fence damage Christmas week 2013]

Add to this that, since efforts to steal my land stepped up in 2007, on numerous occasions my farm's electric fence has been cut and its gateways opened, allowing my livestock to escape – always after 11PM. And no amount of additional protection has been successful to date [ie, electronic gate controllers, a video camera and alarms have been bypassed; vehicles have smashed through fences; individuals have snuck onto the farm to open barn and stall doors, gates; and so on]. And this worsens during holidays, like July 4<sup>th</sup> and Halloween, when during night hours, town residents hold beer parties or set off fireworks in our pastures which terrifies and often injures my herd.

Interestingly, in 2007 the town prohibited use of a tiny caretaker apartment created to protect against vandalism – which, otherwise, had been permitted and approved for occupancy in 1997 when the barn was constructed. Why deny this a decade later when the farm was targeted?

But these aren't the only reasons that PSF may appear to violate OCAS's regulations.

Every fall hunters trespass on the 625 acre, UNC-owned University Lake conservancy which backs my farm. And their gunshots drive dozens of terrified deer through my rearward fences. Once my livestock's terror subsides, they soon escape to graze on my neighbors' well-fertilized lawns.

In summary, I don't have a solution to this problem. But I wish for you to know that, under absolutely no circumstances, do I want my animals harmed! Or, my property damaged! Or, my animals harming others or others' property! And that I'm committed to doing anything reasonable and within my means to ensure that no animal of mine nor I intentionally violate any law.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

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