

Detailed Written Description of Project

The subject of this variance request is a 12' by 20' pole shelter for our pet babydoll sheep and miniature horses. This pole shelter was built in the fall of 2022 to provide the animals with adequate shelter and protection from the winter elements. Although these animals are our pets, they also play an important role on the orchard. Specifically, they have eliminated our need to mow (reducing our fossil fuel use and soil compaction associated with tractors), use glyphosate (the herbicide commonly known as RoundUp), and most synthetic fertilizer (as we have switched almost entirely to organic manure-based and cover crop provided fertilizer because of the effects of the animals and the grazing serviced they provide, enhancing soil health), through our deliberate rotational grazing pattern through the orchard, aided by solar electric fencing.

In our siting of the pole shelter, we were constrained by several factors. First and foremost in our minds was to keep the animals protected from the sprays of the orchard by situating the shelter as far from the trees as possible. Sheep accumulate copper they ingest when grazing and we use copper oxychloride as a treatment on the fruit trees twice per year. We also needed to stay within the protection of our existing enclosed area to protect them from coyotes and other predators. Finally, the direction of the shelter took into account the wind and sun/shadow direction as learned from observing other animal shelters in the community. As an additional consideration, in siting the animal enclosure and shelter (rather than fruit trees) by the road, we endeavored to also keep the orchard chemical sprays as far from the road and pedestrians/cyclists as possible.

Although the pole shelter is slightly less than 15 metres from the property line, we would like to suggest to Council that at 10 metres from the property line, our pole shelter is similar in distance from the property line to other existing structures in the area, therefore is in keeping with the character of the neighborhood. Please see the various photographs of nearby buildings that we attach to this file for evidence of this statement.

Finally, we understand from the planning department that we unwittingly located this shelter in a floodplain area. We would like to add here that we are taking many steps to mitigate any flooding and runoff that might occur on our farm more broadly. Specifically, our cover cropping, rotational grazing, and no-till/no herbicide approaches are all building the soil organic matter and soil structure to prevent runoff and absorb any deluge that might occur at that area of the property. In addition, the shelter is not tight to the ground and allows water to pass under the walls.

Given this, we would request a variance from Council to allow us to keep our pole shelter in its current location.

Attachment B-DVP00400-Project Description



Attachment B-DVP00400-Project Description



Attachment B-DVP00400-Project Description



Attachment B-DVP00400-Project Description



Attachment B-DVP00400-Project Description



Attachment B-DVP00400-Project Description

