

PL 136
11/19

PLAINFIELD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION FOR APPEAL

PLEASE READ: This form should be completed after discussions with the town's zoning administrator about the proposal. If you have not already done so, please contact the zoning administrator (469-3201).

Applicant's name: David Stark

Mailing address: 168 Craydon Tpke Plainfield NH 03781

Property Street address: 168 Craydon Tpke Plainfield NH 03781


Tax Map / Lot Number: 234-17

Zoning district: Rural Residential-RC1

Property owner of record: David + Sarah Stark

Type of appeal (check one):

- variance
- special exception # 34
- administrative decision

Applicants signature: 

- Required Attachments:
- a) applicant signed description of the proposal.
 - b) site map(s) exterior/interior.
 - c) abutter list with mailing addresses.

Fee: application \$60.00
 notification \$70 Total \$ 130

Hearing Date: 12/17/20

In order to be on the meeting agenda for the above date, your paid application must be received at the town office no-later than Monday 12/14/20 (ZBA rule 9.3).

Office Use

date filed: 11/30
 case number: 2020-10
 attachments: X/n
 fee paid: X/n

November 29, 2020

David Stark
Owner, Discreet Ballistics
168 Croydon Turnpike
Plainfield, NH 03781

Zoning Board of Adjustment
Plainfield, NH

To the Members of the Zoning Board,

This letter is to request approval from the ZBA to change our Home Occupancy business status to an "Approved Cottage Business" via special exception.

In the spring of 2016, my wife Sarah and I moved from the Boston-area to Plainfield with the desire to raise our family and begin our business venture. Sarah also works full time as a Nurse Anesthetist at Dartmouth Hitchcock. We settled in East Plainfield at the home built by the Stettenheims in 1972. Shortly after purchasing the home we contracted with Kevin McNamara (Mak's) and LaValley Building Supply to build a barn on the property. This building is used partially to house our business venture. Discreet Ballistics is federally licensed as a type 07 and 08 FFL and we currently maintain Special Occupation Tax payer status with ATF. We are also registered with the Department of State and the Department of Commerce - Bureau of Industry and Security.

Discreet Ballistics is a small boutique ammunition manufacturer that specializes in subsonic ammunition. Subsonic ammunition does not break the sound barrier and therefore is incredibly quiet when used with the appropriate firearm. Our specialized products are used by those wishing to keep their sound signatures low to the point where others are unable to hear them shooting and hearing protection is not required. Our ammunition has become increasingly popular throughout the country and we have been granted three US patents for our technology by the USPTO. Our ammunition is used by hunters, target shooters as well as by law enforcement, USDA (US Department of Agriculture) and other entities that I am unable to disclose.

One of the reasons we have been able to grow the business successfully has been the close proximity of manufacturing to our home which has allowed us to maintain control over the sensitive nature of our products. The manufacturing that occurs involves combining components that have been manufactured elsewhere into a final product (i.e. a cartridge of ammunition). This is analogous to making an apple pie with ingredients purchased, as apposed to grinding the flour etc. yourself. We have designed our manufacturing process to be very safe. We use automated machines with various built in fail-safes. Our powder is stored in SAAMI (Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturer's Institute) approved locking cabinets. We have notified Plainfield Fire Department Chief Bill Taylor of our powder storage practices. To date, during our manufacturing process we have not experienced a single safety incident or accident. Our ammunition is tested off-site by a select group of customers. We maintain multiple layers of security at the barn.

As word began to spread about the uniqueness of our product our customer base began to grow. Due to this, in 2019 we hired a full-time employee and in 2020 we hired an additional part-time employee. The

need for employees is the primary reason for seeking approval as an Approved Cottage Business. Our operating hours are typically 0900-1700 Monday through Friday. Additionally, we are not a store front. 99.5% of our product is shipped via UPS, with the exception of an occasional local customer who may choose to pick up their order to save on shipping costs. There is no signage indicating a business is present. Our two employees park in the driveway to the barn which is located on Eaton Road. On the occasion when we have to take a large delivery of components, we meet the driver at the intersection of Croydon Turnpike and Route 120 to minimize truck traffic in the neighborhood. For smaller deliveries, trucks are able to back in to the barn driveway with minimal to no disruption on Eaton Road.

Due to the nature of Discreet Ballistics it is not feasible to relocate our manufacturing elsewhere, and we intentionally remain a small boutique manufacturer. As an entrepreneur, any disruption to my operations would present a threat not just to my family's livelihood but to the end users of our products. We believe that our operation is not disruptive to our neighbors. We maintain friendly and open lines of communication and our goal is to have harmony in the neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to speaking with the board at the December 2020 meeting.

Regards,

David Stark
Owner, Discreet Ballistics
david@discreetballistics.com
603-276-0561

Maps: (Top) Aerial Map - Spring 2016 showing barn foundation. (Bottom) 168 Croydon Tpke lot lines.

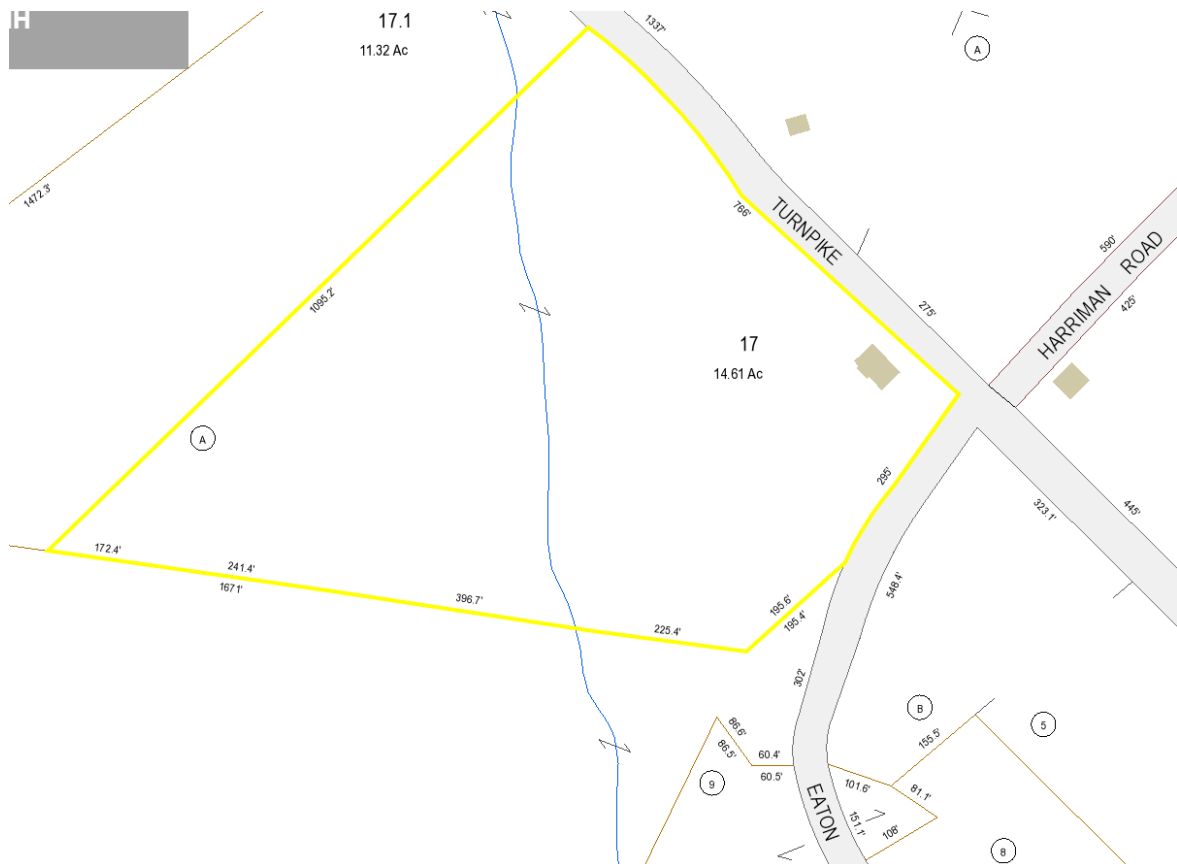


Photo of the barn from Eaton Road



Photo of Barn in relation to the house.

