



# Castle Rock Township

Since 1858

Dakota County, Minnesota

2537 240th Street West, Farmington, MN 55024

castlerocktownship.com

## PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

### Castle Rock Kennels

November 28, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

A Public Hearing Meeting of the Planning Commission of Castle Rock Township was held on Monday November 28, 2022. Those participating were Jim Heiman, Norbert Kuhn, Ken Betzold, Braden Schuenke, Max Litvinov and Molly Weber.

Others in attendance were Pete Schaffer, Diane Lamb, Arlyn Lamb, Andrew Folz, BJ Elvestad, Sandy Weber, Jana Kutnink, Norma Birr, Richard Siebenaler, Bob Buss, Dennis Moe, Keith Jaeckels, and Kelly Jaeckels.

Jim Heiman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of the hearing is to consider, hear from the public, and act to make a recommendation to the Township Board regarding a Conditional Use Permit for Castle Rock Kennels. All persons desiring to be heard in person or in writing will be heard at this time.

The Castle Rock Kennels were discussed. A couple of emails/letters were read and the public was heard.

There was a concern about noise and larger facility creating more traffic and more chaos and noise. A sound barrier for noise was discussed. The fact that she is not requesting a bigger facility was also discussed.

Others spoke of what an asset Castle Rock Kennels is to the community: donating kennel space for those in need, impounding site for lost dogs, Castle Rock Kennels works great with rescue groups, property is well maintained, great & generous neighbor. Jana, of Castle Rock Kennels explained her willingness to curtail her schedule with the dogs to accommodate the neighbors. Another resident stated they very rarely ever hear the dogs and appreciate Jana's willingness to take dogs in until their owners are found.

Others spoke of how Jana shared with them about a potential new owner who wanted to make the kennel much bigger, but out of respect for her neighbors, she knew that was not the correct direction to go.

Northfield Police Chief, Mark Elliot, expressed how Jana, and Castle Rock Kennels provides housing for the City of Northfield & they appreciate a small business keep kennels open for them since that can be a burden on a small business owner with the loss of income. The sheriff office is totally in favor of Castle Rock Kennels operating with 50 kennels/runs as they appreciate her business and think her customer service is awesome! In addition to Northfield, Castle Rock Kennels also supports Farmington, Castle Rock, Dundas and a lot of Dakota County. Police have 24/7 access to the kennels which creates extra police presence in the area.

In 1993 Steve Gilbertson applied for the original Conditional Use Permit for Castle Rock Kennels which was approved for 20 kennels/runs. Jana Kutnink bought it in 2003 and has been running it for 20 years with 50 kennels/runs which was what it was when she purchased it. The outside play areas have been changed from 5 to 8 runs (just made them smaller so she could have a few more).

Building is masonry brick with asphalt shingles. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 8am -11am and 4:30pm-7pm and Saturday and Sunday 10am – 4pm. Dogs are let out between 6:30-7am for 15-20 minute intervals per dog.

**Ken Betzold made a motion to recommend the adoption of Castle Rock Kennels Conditional Use Permit to operate as they are with 50 indoor kennels/runs and 8 outdoor runs with the stipulation to add some sound proofing. Normal business hours will remain as they are: Monday – Friday 8am-11am and 4:30pm-7pm and Saturday and Sunday 10am – 4pm. Norbert Kuhn seconded. Motion carried.**

Jana Kutnink son, Andrew Folz will attend the Board of Supervisors meeting on December 13, 2022.

Norbert Kuhn made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing for Castle Rock Kennels at 7:00pm. Braden Schuenke seconded.  
Motion carried.

Date Signed

2/27/2023

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Weber

Molly Weber, Clerk

Attest:

Braden Schuenke

Braden Schuenke, Vice-Chair - Castle Rock Planning Commission