PLEASE READ FROM BOTTOM UP

Sharyn Herman (sharynherman24@verizon.net)To:**sismartin@comcast.net** Details
Thanks for responding so quickly, Sissy. While I tolerated the chickens over the years and never said anything, there were fewer of them then. It had become a problem when the flock grew from a few chickens to seven ducks, six adult geese, and several chickens of which I lost count. It might not be a big deal to you given that we live amongst nature, but it became a nuisance to me over the past year when the noise became intolerable. There wasn't a noise problem until the geese grew to be adults and the roosters were crowing so close to the house. It really is like a noise tunnel between our two houses and the crowing, squawking, and honking carries right into my house. I would be awakened almost every morning between 4:30 and 6:30 by crowing and squawking, and sometimes could hear the geese at 2:00 or 3:00 am. My sleep was disrupted on a regular basis and I couldn't concentrate on work meetings because of the noise during the day. After two months of asking Art and Adriene to move the animals farther back on the property away from the houses to curtail the noise, and nothing happening, I contacted the county. I really didn't want to do that but felt I had no other choice, and told Adriene that I might have to resort to that. It did not occur to me to contact you as Adriene said she had already consulted you.

Art had mowed my lawn for years and I appreciated it immensely. That does not entitle him to clear trees from my property without my knowledge and extend the pen fence around the clearing. Nor does it give him the right to ignore my complaints about the noise that his animals make. It is a residential area with houses close together. Art and Adriene may be fond of the birds, but I am not, and I shouldn't have to continually chase them off my property because they need new feeding grounds. They don't know boundaries and wander wherever they want. This was not an isolated incident. It's been happening with frequency since last Saturday.

I can't tell the difference between Sheila's chickens and Art's. I have asked Sheila to keep her birds penned too, especially the rooster. I see nothing wrong with raising the food you eat as a family if you have enough room to do so without encroaching on your neighbors or creating a nuisance. You may not see the harm in having a menagerie of birds, but I ask that you and your family respect that your neighbors who live in close proximity might not be as enthusiastic. As for asking Kathy and Jane to turn down music one time, I don't see a problem with that either. Their porch is directly next to my bedroom window, which is where I also work. I don't think anyone realizes how much the sound carries into my house. You may think I'm over reacting, but you can't know what it's like because you're not in my position.

I am sorry that it's gotten to this point. I did try to resolve it without county intervention last spring but eventually felt dismissed and frustrated. I also thought you were aware of the situation at the time.

Thanks for your most recent intervention. I hope not to have to contact you again, but will be sure to do so should it be necessary going forward.

Respectfully,
Sharyn

-----Original Message-----
From: JOHN MARTIN <sismartin@comcast.net>
To: Sharyn Herman <sharynherman24@verizon.net>; JOHN MARTIN <sismartin@comcast.net>
Sent: Thu, Nov 11, 2021 8:57 pm
Subject: Re: Fwd: roaming animals

Sharyn,

I am sorry this occurred and I spoke with Art about his comment. I agree not acceptable but he shared with me on his frustrations over the whole matter. Art said he was trying to allow the birds to feed on some of the areas of the lawn closer to the house and he knew they wondered over to Sheila's but he did not believe they had wandered towards yours. I have asked him to be considerate of them to keep them off of your property.

As a 66 year old adult of grown children and grandchildren I try not to use such language for those it could offend. Not saying I don't say such things either. I am a corporate safety director of a construction company and drive to and from DC so those words do come out. I have asked Art to reframe from any disrespect which is not his nature. The birds give him much comfort which I won't go into.

As for me I have never in over 40 years residing and owning property in Relay had so much conflicts with any neighbor or any matter. I also have a difficult time understanding for 12 years or better there were birds and only till earlier this year it has become an issue that you reported this to Baltimore County Zoning. You stated you reached out to Adriene but I know you knew I was the owner of the property. My property is .937 just fractions shy of permitting such birds and soon to be expected and hopefully changed. What if we had loud hound dogs that would be even greater of noise? You realize you don't live in a noise free community. I have been told directly of your requesting during daytime hours of turning down music on a cell phone to my tenant and several other events I choose not to bring up. There has always been animals domestic and wild and have been in this area for decades. The birds really make no difference on being there. The woods which I use to own almost 10 acres that backs up to the Rolling Road property were always deer, fox, one sighting of a coyote and other smaller animals. I am sorry for expanding on that but I was not happy with the ALJ on her response of comments that items were not brought up during the hearing and she based her decision on documents, testimony not disclosed during the hearing. I didn't have a chance. She also said that if the Wheelers wanted a farm they should move to a farm. What nerve, the Wheelers have been in Relay for over 100 years and Art 41+. Enough my venting on that matter.

I have spoken to Art to keep the birds off your property. I do know Sheila's birds roam as well and as a matter of fact the rooster earlier this year was not ours but a roamer from someone else. I have asked if they keep the birds as far down as possible during this time. I personally find it difficult to see what harm the birds may be. Personally I think it's fantastic that my family can raise the food they eat. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if this occurs again but I ask you to be neighborly as well. I recently found out Art had cut your grass for the years you have been living there with never asking or receiving money. I know he had stopped that on his hurt of his kindness. He had been raised to respect and help thy neighbor but he feels he got a big punch in the stomach over this matter. I do hope to move past this and fairness to everyone, negotiation is never one winner both have to give a little. I hope that happens. I know Art and Adriene will never move and will be buying the property. Again please contact me only any matter concerning my property.

Regards,
Sissy Martin
sismartin@comcast.net
202-438-5254
On 11/11/2021 5:55 PM Sharyn Herman <sharynherman24@verizon.net> wrote:

Hello Sissy -

I am writing to make you aware of a problem that has resurfaced with the animals that Arthur and Adrienne are keeping. In the variance hearing, you mentioned that you were not initially aware of my complaints so I'm looping you in now.

I don't know why, but over the past week, I've noticed that the ducks, geese, and chickens have been left to, once again, roam freely. They have been frequently wandering onto my property, which is not okay. I have chased them away numerous times but they usually come right back to feed and hang out at the base of my back deck or the middle of my yard. My email to Adrienne this past Monday has gone unanswered and when I went to chase the animals off my property this afternoon, Art came out to tell me they weren't on my property. He was right at the moment because I had already chased them off. I told him they were close enough that I could hear them from inside the house. He responded, "you think I give a fuck." That is a direct quote.

I can't tell you what to do as a property owner or as a mother of a grown man, but I can appeal to your sense of fairness and respect for neighbors in this community. I have tried to resolve the animal issue amicably, but it is clear that Arthur has substantial animosity toward me, and that only breeds more contempt. I will not and cannot talk to him, and Adrienne has probably understandably extracted herself from the middle.

Until the Appeals Hearing and beyond if we get to that point, I am asking that the animals stay off my property and away from the houses.

Thank you,
Sharyn

-----Original Message-----
From: Sharyn Herman <sharynherman24@verizon.net>
To: adrienneleewheeler@gmail.com <adrienneleewheeler@gmail.com>
Sent: Mon, Nov 8, 2021 7:34 am
Subject: roaming animals

Hello -

I've noticed that the ducks, geese, and chickens are back to free roaming. What changed? I had to chase them away from my house several times yesterday. Please keep them penned.

Thank you,
Sharyn