

FORM SPR

SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD

APPLICATION FOR SITE PLAN REVIEW

Date 2/5/15

File one completed application form together with ten (10) copies of the site plan with the Planning Board. One (1) copy of Form SPR shall be concurrently filed with the Town Clerk.

To the Planning Board:

The undersigned herewith submits the accompanying Site Plan for review as required by Section 12 of the Zoning By-Laws.

1. Applicant ADAM R. Sweet
Address 56 LINCOLN AVE

Telephone 413-248-7668

2. Owner (if not applicant) Emily Sweet
Address Same

3. Site Plan Preparer _____
Title or License _____
Address _____

4. Deed of property recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds,
Book _____ Page _____

5. Location and description of property (street and number if any) 56
LINCOLN AVE

Assessors Map # _____ Parcel # _____

6. Fee Paid: Yes _____ No _____

[Signature]
Signature of Applicant

Town Clerk:

Date of Submission _____

Signature _____

February 5, 2015

Adam R Sweet
56 Lincoln Ave
South Hadley, MA 01075
413-248-7668
adamrsweet@gmail.com

To whom it may concern:

My name is Adam Sweet. I'm a full time Dad and a part-time music teacher. My wife Emily and I own a house on Lincoln Ave in South Hadley where I teach several students each week. It recently came to the Town's attention that I have been teaching music out of my home. I am not selling products here and do not run a business, per se, although I am actively involved in the music community and hope to generate more interest in music generally and The Mandolin specifically through programs that I have started here in town.

I am the founder and music director of the South Hadley Mandolin Orchestra which holds rehearsals at the Plains School, performs free concerts at the Town Hall and other locations around town, and is free to join: www.mandolinorchestra.org. This orchestra is the first of its kind in over 100 years, the last ones rehearsing and performing at Mt Holyoke College in the early 1900s. Our South Hadley base makes us eager to play a role in the "Rise of the Falls" that has been inspired by the opening in the village of South Hadley Falls of a new public library with a dramatic overlook of the dam and its spillway. We are looking to inspire a revival of participatory music here in South Hadley, and the mandolin is the perfect vehicle. A key strategy for us is what we call The Mandolin Academy. With scholarship programs such as Mando For Kids, Play To Own and our Free Concert Series, we will be able to make it possible for new players of all ages to eventually join the Orchestra and participate in this fantastic local experience.

The reason Emily and I bought a house in South Hadley is because we heard that it was a nurturing and supportive town, with people from all walks of life. We heard that the schools focus on the general well being of the children and not just on taking tests. We came here from Belchertown feeling that it would be the perfect town to raise our children. Our youngest child, Richard, is in the school and we love his teachers. Everyone is nice here and easy to work with.

Since 2009, I have been teaching music at this location without any complaints. In fact, the gentleman across the street has complimented me on the quality of the music "drifting out of the windows" and has told me he likes to sit on his porch and listen. The neighbor next door has offered that students may park on her grass between our houses if I need more space. I'm not close to any of my other neighbors, but there have been no complaints that I am aware of.

Students park in my driveway, which has space for 4 large cars, two of which are my own. When more parking has been needed in the past for things like dinner parties or Christmas parties, we've asked that people park down on Taylor Way and walk up the hill. The pastor of the Church on Lincoln Ave has also offered that we may use his parking lot for overflow if needed. Although some students have parked on the street in the past, that activity will cease from now on.

In 2013, my wife and I pulled permits to reconstruct the attic area over the garage, which is where I teach music now. The space is about 300 square feet, has lots of light and looks over the Black Stevens Conservation area and hill behind the High School. It is quite lovely and is sound proof. During the winter, it is heated with an electric oil radiator (portable type), and in the summer it is cooled with an AC unit and ceiling fan. It has a private side entrance accessible by a sturdy wooden staircase.

I am proud to be a taxpayer and citizen of the town and I need your help so that I can stay here. I want to keep teaching music here. I want to keep the Mandolin Orchestra in this town, I want to continue to offer these free programs such as Mando For Kids, Play To Own and the Free Concerts here. I don't want to have to leave South Hadley and teach or provide these music services in some other town.

I hope this is what you need for the application and I look forward to the Site Review and Public Hearing.

Cordially yours,

Adam R Sweet

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ASweet", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

space used for lessons





