

Margaret G. Flowers  
2741 Fry Road, Aurora  
Lessee, Aurora land

February 21, 2024

Dear members of the Aurora Board of Trustees:

I have standing to comment on this issue because I have a formal lease of land in the County Agricultural District in the Village of Aurora.

I wish to bring to your attention that the livestock chart in the proposed zoning presents a serious animal welfare issue. The chart currently contains the category “disbudded goats and sheep.” This wording is vague and ambiguous.

While disbudding goats is a common and accepted practice, to do so with sheep (because of a very different skull structure) causes great pain, has a recovery time of many months, is frequently unsuccessful, and can easily cause the death of the animal. In short, it is much worse than declawing cats, which is considered inhumane and is outlawed in many communities.

Rewording this category as “sheep and disbudded goats” will remove both the ambiguity and the animal welfare concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Flowers

Margaret G. Flowers  
Trinity Farm  
Aurora, NY