

Board of Adjustment

Canterbury, NH

Minutes of Hearing

27 August 2025

Case No. 2-25-4 Special Exception

Present were Chairman Jim Wieck, Scott Herrick, Sean O'Brien, Christopher Evans, Randi Johnson (Alternate), Lisa Carlson (Alternate). Not in attendance: Web Stout and Gary Spaulding (Alternate). Also, in attendance were Joseph Lopez, Pam and Gordon Jackson.

Chairman Wieck opened the hearing with a description of Mr. Lopez' application and request for a letter from the Board of Adjustment. He reviewed in detail to those present the formal conduct of the hearing procedure.

Mr. Lopez advised he has a Federal Firearms License in Nashua, NH at his primary residence. He is relocating to Ames Road in Canterbury. He needs to change the location of his license. He does not sell guns or do transfers. He has these weapons to fulfill his business which is federal contracts. He usually works with the Department of Defense; Special Operations and he supplies exercise support. He has Soviet weapons that are used in military exercises. In order to have those weapons he must have a Federal Firearms License Class Seven, and he has to also pay his annual for the weapons he has. He plans to store them inside his building. There will be no traffic up or down the road. It is just a matter of changing the address from Nashua to Canterbury. Mr. Lopez provided a copy of his current license to the board for the file. Chairman Wieck confirmed the storage will take place in a building on the property and a warehouse is not being created. There is no trucking involved going to and from. When a military exercise is going to take place, he will deliver them personally in a secure truck to a military base or location. Chris asked if any of his business would be conducted inside the building. Mr. Lopez advised the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives) in order to transfer his business address from Nashua to Canterbury, requested that he go to the zoning board and get approval. Discussion ensued by the board about the need for a special exception. Sean asked if there would be any signage. There will be no signage. No one spoke in favor or in opposition. The applicant added he is trying to comply with any regulations, his request is pretty straight forward. Chris read in its entirety a letter drafted in the event the board approved the special exception request. Sean asked that the zone referenced in the drafted letter be changed from residential to rural. Lisa asked where the trainings are done. They are done mostly at military bases all over the country. Randi asked how the weapons are transported. They are put in Mr. Lopez truck and are under his control. He also uses a trailer and emphasized he must always maintain control of his truck and trailer contents. He has the appropriate safeguards in the home. No one spoke in favor or in opposition. Scott asked do they dictate how you secure those weapons. Yes, there are regulations on how the weapons are secured and they will inspect him before they approve his address change. Randi asked if Mr. Lopez company name should be included letter (Arrow Security & Training LLC). It will be added to the letter. Discussion ensued with the board about the necessity of granting a special exception for a home occupation. Mr. Lopez has an office location in Nashua and will do some business out of his home.

Chris made a motion to **GRANT** the application for the following reason:

1. That granting the permit would be in the public interest. Mr. Lopez business is to provide training for the Department of Defense and that seems to be in the public interest.
2. That the proposed use would not adversely affect the property values in the district. This is an indoor storage location. There is no real business going on in this location. He just needs the proper text from the Town of Canterbury that he is not violating any ordinances. It is needed in order to comply with the FFL regulations.
3. That the specific site is an appropriate location for the proposed use. It is a climate-controlled environment.

4. That the proposed use would not adversely affect the health and safety of the residents and others in the area and would not be detrimental to the use or development of adjacent or neighboring properties. There will be no contact with the public, there is no signage or means that would suggest what he is doing there.
5. That the proposed use would not constitute a nuisance because of offensive noise, vibration, smoke, dust, odors, heat, glare or unsightliness. There has been no testimony to indicate any of those conditions were in play.
6. That granting of the permit would be in the spirit of this ordinance. It meets the criteria for a home occupation, therefore the spirit of this ordinance.
7. That the proposed use would not constitute a hazard because of traffic, hazardous materials or other conditions. There was no testimony or any knowledge whatsoever that would be the case.

Sean seconded the motion. The Board vote was a unanimous decision to **GRANT** the special exception for a home occupation and the letter with two amendments made. Chairman Wieck explained the thirty-day appeal process.

Respectfully submitted,

DRAFT

Lisa Carlson, Clerk
Board of Adjustment