

## Neighbors try to ground pilot

**RED HOOK** — Town residents can comment tonight on Norman Greig's application to continue using an existing airstrip on his brother's farmland.

Robert Greig, the owner, is seeking a special use permit from the Red Hook Planning Board and several variances from the town Zoning Board of Appeals, to comply with the town's regulations and recently updated zoning.

"In Red Hook, the zoning seems to be enforced by complaint," said Norman Greig, who has farmed his brother's land since 1975. "I wanted to be proactive."

At least two neighbors of the farm, Richard Cohn and Roberta Kimmel-Cohn of Pitcher Lane, object to how Greig flies his plane. The couple have hired local attorney Peter Klose to represent them.

"My clients have specifically complained about the reckless, low-level flights over their home by Mr. Greig and hereby indicate that they have serious objections to the use of the parcels as an airport," Klose said in a letter Dec. 12 to zoning board Chairman Nick Annas. "Mr. Greig's use of their cupola as a navigating beacon should be discontinued."

Greig denies he has flown anywhere near the Cohns' home, saying the airstrip is at

least half a mile away.

"I know they have a very downtown attitude about farming," he said.

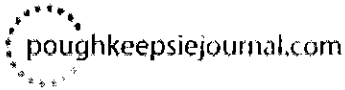
Klose said his clients did not wish to discuss their complaints, but on their behalf he said Greig's application before the planning and zoning boards is "grossly premature." He said that the Town Board should first determine if the establishment of an "airport" on the Greig Farm is intended by the town's Comprehensive Plan.

In addition, Klose said, New York state General Business Law requires the state Department of Transportation Aviation Bureau to first review the proposal to ensure the "airport" complies with all applicable regulations.

Greig, though, said he is not seeking approval for an "airport" and is not planning any construction, runway lights or public service. He said he uses his "airstrip" at most once a week to fly his

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1,500-pound Piper 150 aircraft.

Jeffrey Anagnos, a neighboring land owner, said he has no problem with Greig continuing to maintain his airstrip. Recently, while driving east on Rockefeller Lane, he said he enjoyed watching Greig land his plane.

“He came in for a touchdown. I started giggling and thought how great it would be to have my own airstrip,” he said.

### PUBLIC HEARING

A hearing takes place at 7:20 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting in Red Hook Town Hall on the application of Norman Greig for a variance from the town regulations to maintain a private airstrip on his two adjoining parcels, totaling 123.4 acres. He is seeking to allow the airstrip to come within 50 feet of Pitcher and Rockefeller lanes — requiring variances from the 300-foot setback regulation. Town hall is at 7340 Broadway.

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