#### **BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT**

#### **AGENDA**

#### **SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**

#### 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call.

Approval of Minutes: August 20, 2020.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Pursuant to "Safer at Home" orders from the Governor of the State of Alabama due to COVID-19 Pandemic, the Board of Zoning Adjustment meeting of August 20, 2020 will be video-conferenced and teleconferenced. Anvone choosing to attend the meeting in person will be required to wear a mask practice social distancing. may participate via phone/ computer. Participation via videoconferencing through Zoom.com may be viewed by clicking the following link: https:// us02web.zoom.us/j/7970217974 To attend via teleconference, dial 312.626.6799 and enter the meeting ID of 797 021 7974

- (1) **BZA-0920-26** David and Greer Massey are appealing a decision by the zoning official at **1320 Willoughby Road.** The purpose of this request is to appeal zoning decision on a neighboring property's fence. The property is owned by David and Greer Massey and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-2.
- (2) BZA-0820-18 Howard Neely is requesting a Front & Rear Setback Variance for the property located at 901 Granbury Road. The purpose of this request is to reduce the front setback to 7' in lieu of the approved 9' & to reduce the rear setback to 28' in lieu of the required 30' to finish additions on the house. The property is owned by Howard Neely and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-2.
- (3) **BZA-0920-25** Jeff Jantz is requesting **Multiple Variances** for the property located at **2120 Chestnut Road**. The purpose of this request is to reduce the setback to 5' in lieu of the 15', & to reduce the lot width to 85' in lieu of the required 100' & to reduce the lot area to 12,500 sq ft in lieu of the required 15,000' to build a bedroom and bathroom addition. The property is owned by Jeff Jantz and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-2.
- (4) **BZA-0920-22** Sheilah Nelson is requesting a **Front Setback Variance** for the property located at **3941 Knollwood Trace**. The purpose of this request is to reduce the front setback to 8' in lieu of the required 12' to build a screened in patio. The property is owned by Sheilah Nelson and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-6.

- (5) **BZA-0920-23** John & Myra Grund are requesting a **Front and Side Setback** Variance for the property located at **2013 Vesthaven Way**. The purpose of this request is to reduce the front setback to 30' in lieu of the previously approved 34' & to reduce the side setback to 12' in lieu of the required 15' to build an addition. The property is owned by John and Myra Grund and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-2.
- (6) **BZA-0920-24** Julie Maeseele is requesting a **Side Setback Variance** for the property located at **3172 Belwood Drive**. The purpose of this request is to reduce the side setback to 10' in lieu of the previously approved 20', to build a storage addition. The property is owned by Julie Maseseele and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-5.
- (7) **BZA-0920-27** Brian Wetta is requesting a **Side Setback Variance** for the property located at **2344 Morningstar Drive**. The purpose of this request is to reduce the side setback to 12' in lieu of the previously approved 17' to build a garage addition. The property is owned by Bryan Wetta and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-1.
- (8) **BZA-0920-28** John & Laura Howland are requesting a **Side Setback Variance** for the property located at **2425 Vestavia Drive**. The purpose of this request is to reduce the side setback to 14' in lieu of the required 17' to build a small storage shed. The property is owned by John & Laura Howland and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-1.

Time of Adjournment.

#### **BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT**

#### **MINUTES**

## August 20, 2020

The Board of Zoning Adjustment of the City of Vestavia Hills met in regular session on this date at 6:00 PM. The roll was called with the following:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rick Rice, Chairman

Loring Jones, III
Jim Griffo
George Ponder
Robert Gower
Donald Holley Alt

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tony Renta, Alt

**OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Jack Wakefield, Planner/GIS

# **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of July 16, 2019 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** 

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 19, 2019 was made by Mr. Jones and 2<sup>nd</sup> was by Mr. Griffo. Motion as carried on a voice vote as follows:

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{Mr. Griffo - yes} & \text{Mr. Jones - yes} \\ \text{Mr. Ponder - yes} & \text{Mr. Rice - yes} \\ \text{Mr. Holley - yes} & \text{Mr. Gower - yes} \\ \end{array}$ 

Motion carried.

#### **REAR & SIDE SETBACK VARIANCE**

BZA-0820-17

Ellen Lowe is requesting a Rear and Side Setback Variance for the property located at 3164 Valley Park Drive. The purpose of this request is to reduce the rear setback to 10' in lieu of the required 15' & to reduce the side setback to 6' in lieu of the required 10' to build a small storage shed. The property is owned by Ellen Lowe and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-4.

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Mr. Wakefield described the area where the property is located and read the review which included the purpose of the request, comprehensive plan and staff review.

Ellen Lowe was present and stated that her hardship was a corner lot, upon request from Mr. Jones.

Mr. Rice opened the floor for a public hearing. There being no one present in regard to the request, Mr. Rice closed the public hearing and opened the floor for a motion.

**MOTION** Motion to approve a 5' rear setback variance to reduce the setback to 10' in lieu of the required 15' & a 4' side setback variance to reduce the setback to 6' in lieu of the required 10', for the property located at 3164 Valley Park Drive, was made by Mr. Jones and 2nd was by Mr. Ponder. Motion was carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Griffo - yes
Mr. Ponder - yes
Mr. Holley - yes
Mr. Gower - yes
Mr. Gower - yes
Motion carried.

#### FRONT & REAR SETBACK VARIANCE

#### **BZA-0820-18**

Howard Neely is requesting a **Front & Rear Setback Variance** for the property located at **901 Granbury Road**. The purpose of this request is to reduce the rear setback to 7' in lieu of the approved 9' & to reduce the rear setback to 28' in lieu of the required 30' to finish additions on the house. The property is owned by Howard Neely and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-2.

Mr. Wakefield described the area where the property is located and read the review which included the purpose of the request, comprehensive plan and staff review.

Ward Neely stated that he needed to revise previous variance, as the foundation survey differed from the request. He stated the corner lot caused the hardship.

Mr. Ponder & Mr. Jones objected to the corner lot hardship. They said that the road that would front the applicant's property is an undeveloped road and not considered a road for a hardship defense. That it acted as more of a drive way.

Mr. Holley stated that it was his view that this was a corner lot and that it was an official road.

Mr. Neely stated that this was granted a variance in the past based on a corner lot hardship and now the Board is saying that it wasn't a corner lot.

Discussion ensued and the Board was still split on the corner lot.

Mr. Jones made a motion to postpone this case, so that City staff can weigh in on their determination of this road. To which Mr. Neely agreed.

Mr. Rice opened the floor for a public hearing. There being no one present in regard to the request, Mr. Rice closed the public hearing and opened the floor for a motion.

**MOTION** Motion to postpone was carried and the case was postponed to next month's public hearing.

#### FRONT SETBACK VARIANCE

BZA-0820-19

John Davis is requesting a **Front Setback Variance** for the property located at **3231 Valley Park Drive**. The purpose of this request is to reduce the setback to 30' in lieu of the 40' to build a covered front porch and expand he size of the garage. The property is owned by John Davis and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-4.

Mr. Wakefield described the area where the property is located and read the review which included the purpose of the request, comprehensive plan and staff review.

Mr. Davis said the non-conforming lot causes a hardship. Mr. Ponder said that wasn't a valid hardship

Mr. Jones asked where the field lines were and the applicant stated that they were in the rear.

Mr. Gower and Mr. Griffo stated that in their view this was also a slightly odd shaped lot.

The Board agreed the septic lines were enough for a hardship.

Mr. Rice opened the floor for a public hearing. There being no one in the public that wanted to speak, Mr. Rice closed the public hearing and opened the floor for a motion.

**MOTION** Motion to approve a 10' rear setback variance to reduce the setback to 130' in lieu of the required 40' for the property located at 3232 Valley Park Drvie, was made by Mr. Jones and 2nd was by Mr. Griffo. Motion was carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Griffo - yes
Mr. Ponder - yes
Mr. Holley - yes
Mr. Gower - yes
Mr. Gower - yes

Motion carried.

#### **REAR & SIDE SETBACK VARIANCE**

**BZA-0820-20** 

Tommy Yarborough is requesting a **Rear and Side Setback Variance** for the property located at **523 Eastwood Place**. The purpose of this request is to reduce the rear setback to 16' in lieu of the required 30' & to reduce the side setback to 9' in lieu of the required 15' to build a kitchen nook extension and a covered patio. The property is owned by Tahoe Investments and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-2.

Mr. Wakefield described the area where the property is located and read the review which included the purpose of the request, comprehensive plan and staff review.

Mr. Yarbrough stated that the underside lot caused the hardship, as well as the easements in the rear.

Mr. Ponder stated that is not a valid hardship.

A couple Board members stated that the lot could be considered an odd shaped lot, as it juts in at the rear of the lot.

Mr. Yarbrough requested a vote on the case based on an odd shaped lot hardship.

Mr. Rice opened the floor for a public hearing. There being no one else in the public that wanted to speak, Mr. Rice closed the public hearing and opened the floor for a motion.

**MOTION** Motion to approve a 14' rear setback variance to reduce the setback to 16' in lieu of the required 30' & a 6' side setback variance to reduce the setback to 9' in lieu of the required 15' for the property located at 523 Eastwood Place, was made by Mr. Jones and 2nd was by Mr. Griffo. Motion was carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Griffo - yes
Mr. Jones - yes
Mr. Rice - yes
Mr. Holley - yes
Mr. Gower - yes
Motion carried.

#### **SIDE SETBACK VARIANCE**

BZA-0820-21

Rebecca & Nathan Pitner are requesting a **Side Setback Variance** for the property located at **1856 Southwood Road**. The purpose of this request is to reduce the rear setback to 5' in lieu of the required 50' to build a garage addition. The property is owned by Rebecca & Nathan Pitner and is zoned Vestavia Hills R-2.

#### **BZA Minutes**

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Mr. Wakefield described the area where the property is located and read the review which included the purpose of the request, comprehensive plan and staff review.

Andrew Lange said that the setback needed to be reduced for a garage addition. He stated the hardship was the septic tank and field lines on the lot.

Mr. Rice opened the floor for a public hearing. There being no one else in the public that wanted to speak, Mr. Rice closed the public hearing and opened the floor for a motion.

**MOTION** Motion to approve a 10' side setback variance to reduce the setback to 5' in lieu of the required 15' for the property located at 1856 Southwood Road, was made by Mr. Jones and 2nd was by Mr. Gower. Motion was carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Griffo - yes
Mr. Jones - yes
Mr. Rice - yes
Mr. Holley - yes
Mr. Gower - yes
Motion carried.

At 7:30 PM, Mr. Rice made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Jack Wakefield, Planner/GIS

# SYNOPSIS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING APPLICATION BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

Date: **SEPTEMBER 17, 2020** 

• <u>CASE</u>: BZA-0920-26

• **REQUESTED ACTION:** Appeal of Decision by Zoning Official

• ADDRESS/LOCATION: 1320 Willoughby Road

• **APPLICANT/OWNER:** David and Greer Massey

• REPRESENTING AGENT: N/A

• GENERAL DISCUSSION: Zoning official, Rebecca Leavings, received a complaint from Mr. Massey, the owner of 1316 Willoughby Road, regarding a zoning code violation on their neighbor's property. The complainant says that there is an illegal barrier over their neighbors' fence. Upon review by the Mrs. Leavings, it was ruled that this structure was legal. She deemed this as a tarp or shade structure, but the code does not define either of those. This barrier didn't fit the definition of a banner because the objects were not advertising a product. This isn't a wind sign because it is not subjected to the blowing of the wind. The only definition Mrs. Leavings could find, that fit this object, was a flag and flags have no height requirement (see attached letter). Mr. Massey contends that this not a flag and that this fits the definition of a fence. He cites the fence Zoning code language for the reason why this is a fence (see attached letter).

#### • STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

1. City Planner Review: No problems noted.

**2. City Engineer Review:** No problems noted.

3. City Fire Marshal Review: No problems noted.

4. **Building Safety Review:** No problems noted.

1320 Willoughby Rd.
Appeal regarding flags
Greer Massey is Appealing

BZA Application Revised April 1, 2019 Page 3

# CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION

The owner of the property understands that the Board of Zoning Adjustment only has jurisdiction to grant variances from the Vestavia Hills Zoning Code in cases of undue hardship only. Variances cannot be considered or granted on any kind of private covenants as covenants are restrictions between property owners.

EXAMPLE: If you are asking for a variance from a building setback line and the building setback line is recorded on the plat and matches the Zoning Code, then the Board of Zoning Adjustment would only hear the case based on the Zoning Code requirements, not what is on the recorded plat. The recorded plat is a covenant between property owners of the subdivision. You must have signatures of every property owner on the recorded plat map to change the covenant portion of the setback. The letter of signatures approving the amendment of the covenants must be filed with the Office of the Probate Court. Again, the BZA can only grant a variance based on the Zoning Code and that is the only portion of the building setback changes that the BZA can vote upon. Once a waiver is filed with the Office of the Probate, please include a copy of the recorded amendment with the application to the Office of the City Clerk.

Please note: Only completed applications will be accepted by this office. The applicant is responsible for the Application Fee as well as all postage fees incurred by this request.

I.	APPLICANT	INFORMATION:			
	Owner of Pro	Owner of Property (This Section Must Be Completed)			
	Name:	Greer Massy			
	Address:	1316 Willoughby Rd			
		Vestavia AL 35214	pand Massey		
	Phone #:	205-821-1662 Other#:	205-310-8289		
	E-Mail:				
	Billing/Respon	sible Party			
	Name:				
	Address:				
	Phone #:	Other #:			
	E-Mail:				

	Representing Attorney/Other Agent	
	Name:	
	Address:	
	Phone #: Other #:	
	E-Mail:	
	*This section must be completed in order for a representative to represent the owner.	
II.	DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY:	
	LOCATION: 1320 Willoughby Rd Street Address	
	Street Address	
	Subdivision name, Lot #, Block #, etc.	
III.	REASONS FOR REQUEST (PLEASE FILL IN APPLICABLE STATEMENTS):	
	1. ( A request to vary:	
	, variance to reduce the lot width to, in lieu of the required	
	square foot variance to reduce the lot area to square feet in liet of the required square feet.	
	' front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to in lieu of the required'	
	' front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to in lieu of the required'	
	' front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to in lieu of the required'	
	2. A decision of the Zoning Official which the applicant believes to be contrary to the meaning of the Zoning Ordinance.	
	3. An application to establish a use which must be approved by the Board o	
	Zoning Adjustment (See Section).  4 ( A request for extension of non-conforming use (See Section).	
	5. ( Variance for location of a fence.	
	<ul> <li>6. Sign Code Variance (See Section).</li> <li>7. Other - Explain (See Section).</li> </ul>	
	Appealing a decision by city clerk	

# Z0920-26//2800304013021.000 1320 Willoughby Rd. Appeal regarding flags Greer Massey is Appealing

BZA Application Revised April 1, 2019 Page 5

IV.	ZONING	
<u> </u>		
	Vestavia Hills Zoning for the subject property is	

#### V. HARDSHIP

Describe those things which you feel justify the action requested. An Undue Hardship is required in order to seek a variance. List, when necessary, the specific sections of the City Code(s) which have a bearing on your request. (Use additional space on separate page if necessary).

#### VI. PROJECT:

Describe the scope of the project and/or the reason for requesting this variance.

## VII. OWNER AFFIDAVIT:

I do hereby declare the above statements are true and that I, the owner, and/or my duly appointed representative will be at the scheduled hearing. I, also, understand that I am asking for a variance based on the Zoning Code only and not on any or all covenants that are on the subject property. \*Note, this application must be signed by the owner of the property before a notary. The original application shall be submitted, no copies shall be accepted\*

Owner Signature/Date	Representing Agent (if any)/date
Given under my hand and seal, this Aday of Hugust, 2020	
My commission expires  day of  Notary Public  My Commission Expires  November 8, 2020	



ASHLEY C. CURRY

REBECCA LEAVINGS

July 6, 2020

David Massey 1316 Willoughby Road Vestavia Hills AL 35216

#### RE: 1320 Willoughby Road, Eric and Freidrich Brosch.

Dear Mr. Massey,

Your complaint concerning barriers placed on the Brosch property located at 1320 Willoughby Road has been turned over to me as Zoning Official. I apologize for the delay, I was on vacation when this was originally received and investigated in the Building Safety Department. Because they could find no violation, they requested that I give an opinion as the Zoning Official

After a review of the barriers, I find these to fit into the definition of a flag. According to Section 4.3.7 of the Zoning Code entitled *Height Regulations*, flags are exempt from height regulations and do not appear to be in violation (a copy of that section is attached). The objects do not fit the Code's definition of a banner nor a wind sign as they are not advertising a product nor subjected to the blowing of the wind. I could not locate anything in the code in which to classify these objects.

Section 11.4.4(4) allows residential properties to have no more than 4 flags (copy attached). As shown in these photographs, there's a total of six flags on this property, the 4 blank non-commercial non-product related flags in the middle and the two Trump flags on either side. The Trump flags can be considered as political signage and there's a height limit of 6' as well as a size limit of 6.5 square feet. I believe the Trump flags are true violations of the code.

I will send the Brosch's a letter and notify them that they are currently in violation of having 6 flags rather than the allowed 4 and that I believe the two Trump flags are in violation and need to be removed immeditely.

Mr. Massey, if you are not happy with this opinion, you may appeal my decision to the Vestavia Hills Board of Zoning Adjustment and cite the areas of the code where you feel the Brosch's might be in violation with the placement of the four flags. If you wish to appeal, please fill out an application for a BZA opinion and contact Jack Wakefield, <a href="jwakefield@yhal.org">jwakefield@yhal.org</a> to assist. The Zoning Code may be found at our website, <a href="www.vhal.org">www.vhal.org</a>, under departments/planning and zoning/zoning ordinances and staff review/Zoning Code.

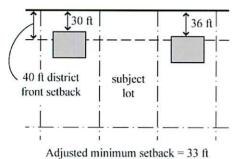
If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

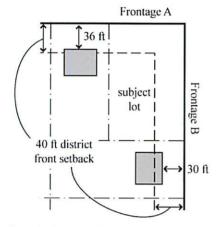
Rebecca Leavings

City Clerk

#### Reduced setback for Interior Lot



Reduced setback for Corner Lot



Adjusted minimum setback on Frontage A = 36 ft Adjusted minimum setback on Frontage B = 30 ft

Figure 4.3.6 Reduced front yard setbacks

- c. Roof overhangs, projecting into a required yard no more than three (3) feet but in no case shall they project closer than three (3) feet to any property line.
- d. Bay windows, chimneys, window air condition units and similar architectural features or mechanical components of single-family dwellings and duplexes projecting no more than four (4) feet into a required yard. The cumulative width(s) of such encroachments shall not constitute more than ten (10) percent of the total length of the corresponding wall. In no case shall such projections extend nearer than three (3) feet from any abutting lot line.

- e. Mechanical components of central air conditioning systems, irrigation pumps, grinder pumps, or similar mechanical equipment projecting into a required side yard no more than four (4) feet and no closer than five (5) feet to any lot line, except as may be otherwise approved by the Building Official in the case of zero lot line developments.
- f. Moveable awnings attached to and supported by a building wall may be placed over doors or windows in any required yard, but such awnings shall not project closer than five (5) feet to any lot line. Canopies shall provide a clear space between grade level and the bottom of the valance of at least eight (8) feet. See also §7.2 Gas and Service Stations for gas and service station canopies.

In addition to the aforesaid, a reduction of a front, rear or side yard up to one (1) foot may be approved by the Building Official provided that no portion of the building shall extend closer than three (3) feet to the nearest property line.

- 5. On through lots, the required front yard setback shall be provided on each frontage except where a note appears on a recorded plat prohibiting access to one of the abutting frontages. Along such frontage, the minimum rear yard shall be required per the applicable district.
- 4.3.7. Height Regulations. The maximum building height regulations prescribed in this Ordinance shall not apply to belfries, chimneys, church spires, cooling towers, elevator bulkheads, fire towers, flag poles, television antennae, tanks, water towers, or mechanical equipment rooms that:
  - 1. do not separately or in combination with other rooftop structures exceed ten (10) percent of the horizontal roof area; and

- than such messages necessary to identify the use;
- 6. Signs installed by a transit company with a franchise or other right to operate in the City, where such signs are installed along its routes and relate to schedules or other information about the transit route;
- 11.4.4. Signs Permitted in All Districts. The following signs are allowed without a sign permit and are not to be included in determination of the allowable numbers, type and area of a sign that requires a sign permit. If a sign otherwise falling under this section is electrified, it will require an electrical permit. Signs subject to this Section shall conform to the requirements specified:
  - 1. Address Numbers. Signs used for the purpose of identifying the E-911 address of any building shall not be counted toward sign area provided such signs are not larger than two (2) square foot in area.
  - 2. Incidental signs, whether freestanding or attached, that are smaller than four (4) sq. ft. in area and less than four (4) feet in height;
  - 3. Memorial Signs. Signs or tablets, names of buildings and date of erection, when cut into any masonry surface or inlaid so as to be part of the building or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible material, provided that no such sign shall exceed six sq. ft. in area nor shall any such sign be separately illuminated.
  - 4. Non Commercial Flags. Flags that do not contain a commercial message must be displayed in accordance with the applicable protocol. No premise shall contain more than four flags.
  - 5. Window Signs. Window signs that total no more than thirty-three (33) percent of

- the window area per window. A window sign may be made of paper or other material and will not be considered a banner if affixed to the inside of a window. A lighted window sign is subject to requirements of the City Electrical Code.
- 6. Non-commercial Signs. In addition to any other permanent or temporary signage otherwise provided for in this Article, each occupied lot shall be permitted an aggregate sign area of fifteen (15) sq. ft. for non-commercial speech, which shall not be illuminated, shall not exceed six and one-half (6.5) sq. ft. in area per sign and shall not exceed five (5) feet in height. In addition, the following provisions shall apply to noncommercial signage during an election. which shall include 180 days preceding and including the day of a governmental election; and, whenever a run-off election is scheduled, the 180 day period shall be extended through the date of the run-off election:
  - a. Signs may be placed on private property, buildings, or motor vehicles. With permission of the owner, signs may be placed on the property and portions of the street right-of-way maintained by the owner, provided that no sign shall be placed in any state right-of-way nor protrude into or over paved or improved streets. sidewalks, or gutters. All signs shall be removed within forty-eight (48) hours after the election has been determined. For municipal elections, the locational allowances herein shall not apply until the final day of filing of statements for candidacy.
  - b. The aggregate non-commercial sign area for non-residentially-zoned, occupied lots shall be increased to thirty-two (32) sq. ft. Non-commercial



ASHLEY C. CURRY

REBECCA LEAVINGS

July 6, 2020

Eric and Freidrich Brosch 1320 Willoughby Road Vestavia Hills AL 35216

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Brosch:

I am in receipt of a complaint regarding the objects placed near your fence in the rear yard of your property. As the City's Zoning Official and after careful consideration, I have notified the complainant that I can only find the following violations in relation to your property.

 Political Signage – Two political flags are located on your property and can be viewed from the public right-of-way and stand more than 6' tall and appear to be in excess of 6.5 square feet.

The other objects in your yard appear to be flags that bear no message. Our code allows up to four of these flags. Please remove the political flags immediately.

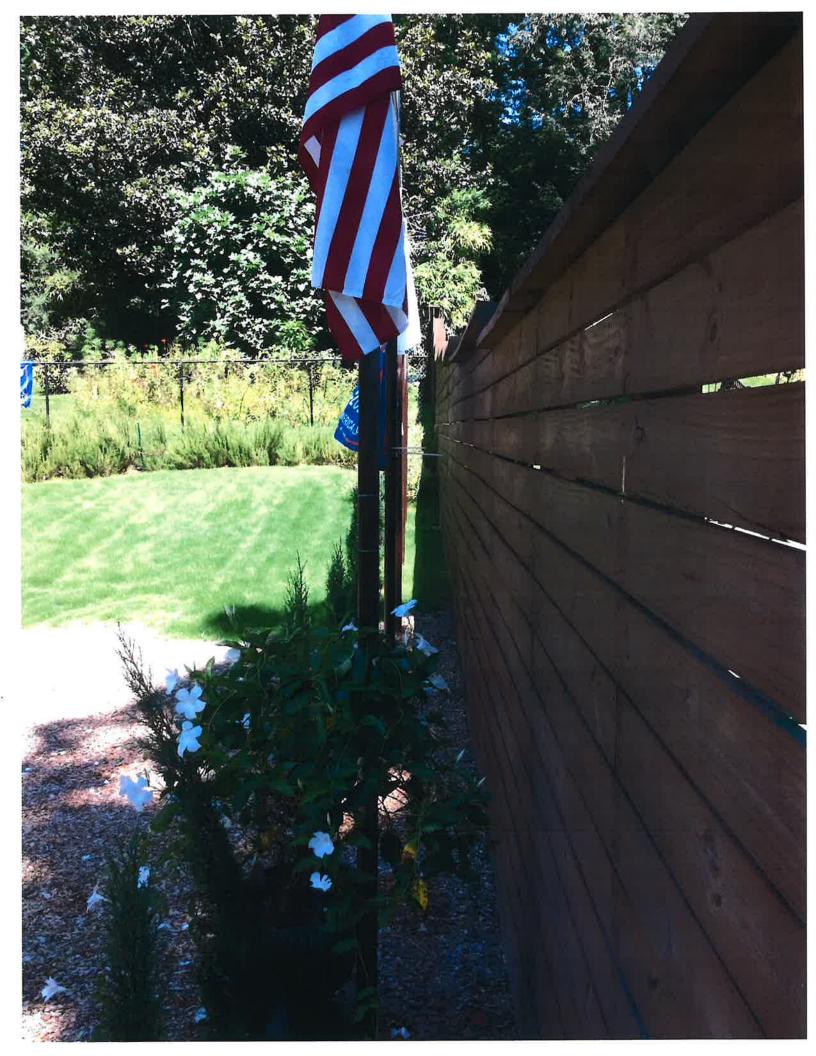
Please be aware that the complainant has the right to appeal my decision to the Vestavia Hills Board of Zoning Adjustment. If that happens, you will be notified of the Board's meeting and the matter would be decided by the Board.

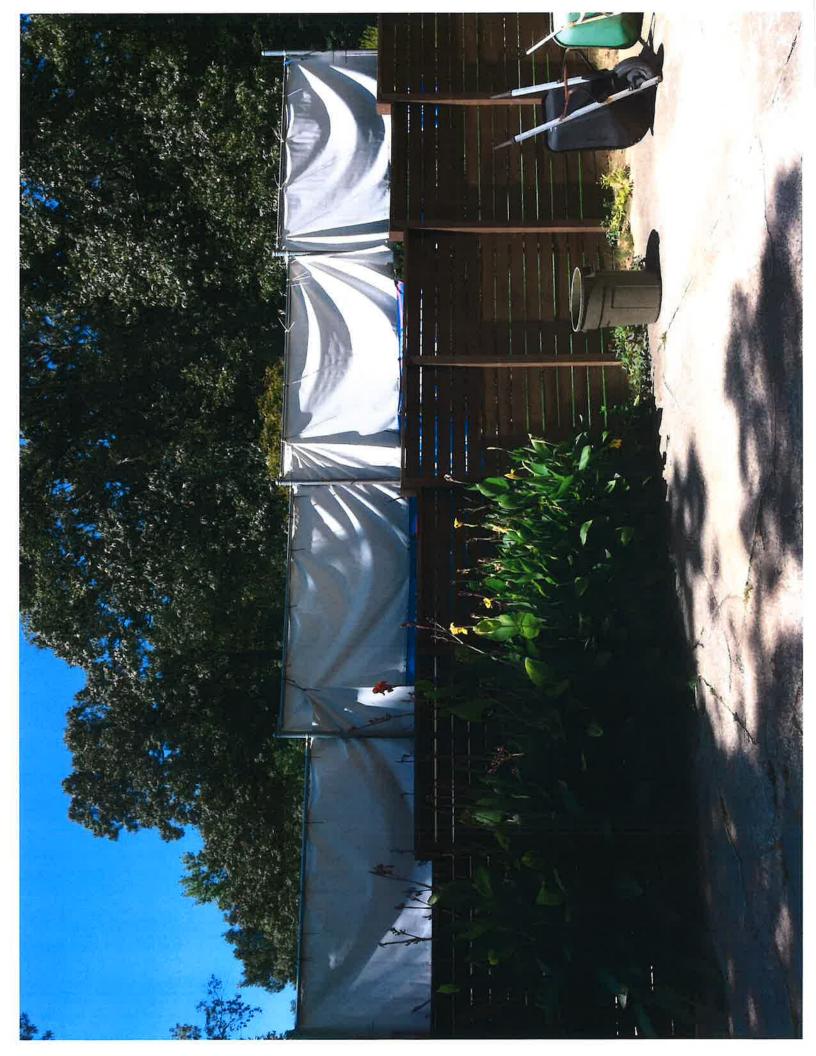
Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this notice.

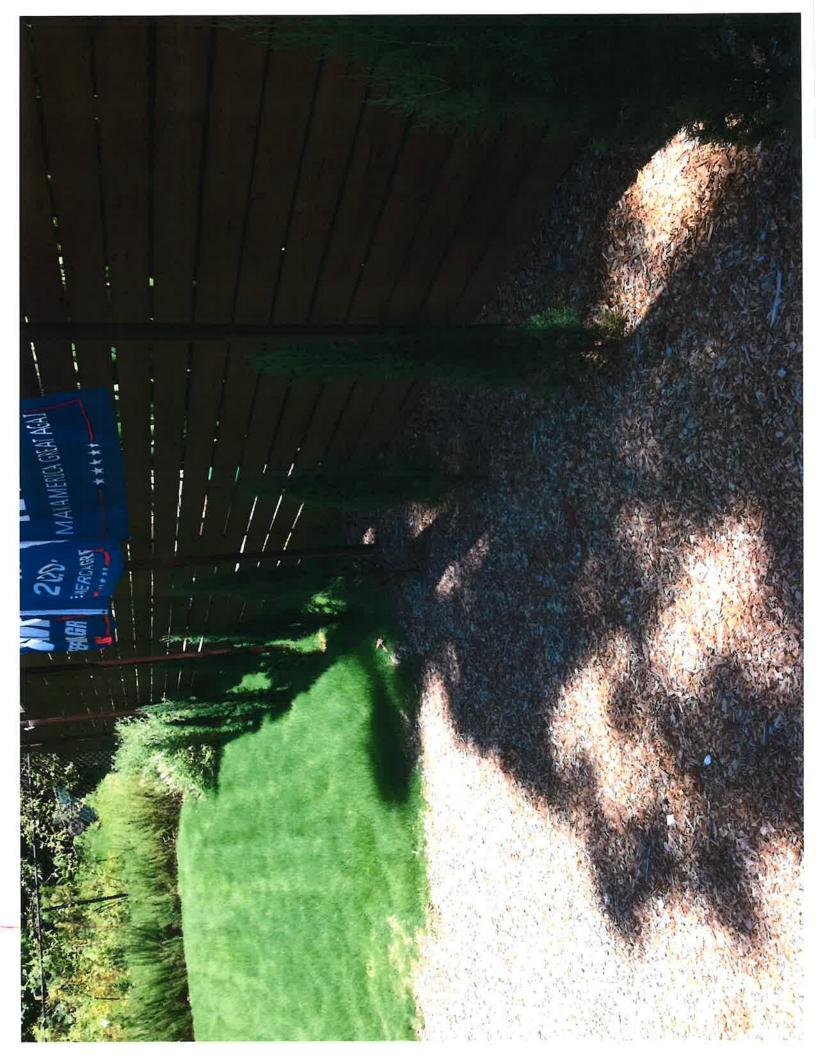
Sincerely,

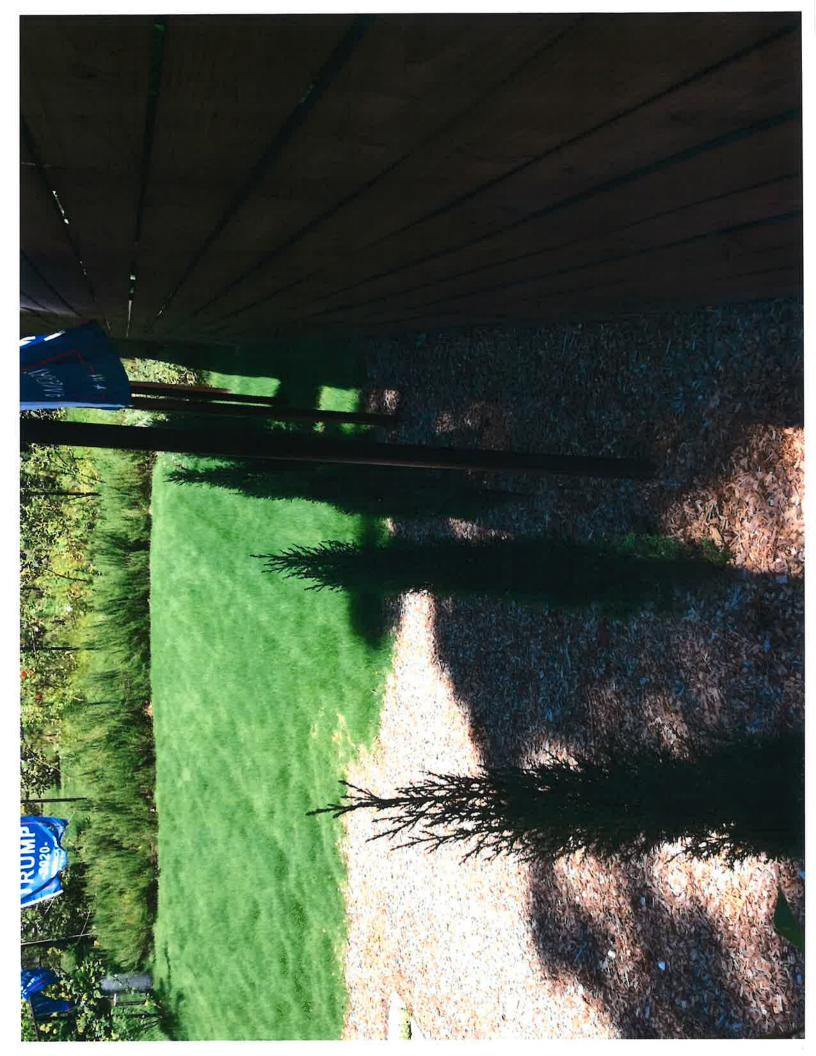
Rebecca Leavings

City Clerk/Zoning Official









Date: July 17, 2020

From: David & Greer Massey

To: Vestavia Hills Board of Zoning Adjustments

RE: 1320 Willoughby Road, Eric and Freidrich Brosch

We appeal the City Clerk's decision dated July 6, 2020 declaring the 4 white objects, roughly 4 feet x 8 feet in size and installed over 8 feet off the ground, as "flags".



Our contention is that these are not flags and are a fence by Zoning Code Section 2.1.52 entitled Fence.

2.1.52. Fence. Any barrier of any material or combination of materials, other than a building, erected to enclose or screen areas of land or used as a means of protection, confinement or buffering. For the purposes of this Ordinance, the "fence" includes the term "wall", but does not include the term "retaining wall".

A fence is defined by purpose, not material. These objects are in fact "any barrier made of any material or combination of materials, other than a building", that have clearly been "erected to enclose or screen areas of land". In addition, we contend the following will demonstrate that these objects: are not flags, are meant to screen areas of land, and should fall under Section 2.1.52.

We begin with the Clerk's decision letter. In paragraph two (included below), the first sentence informs us that the City Clerk defines them as flags, but the last sentence states that the City Clerk could not locate anything in code to classify the objects.

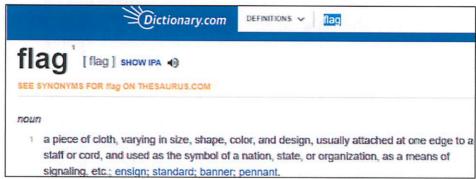
Z0920-26//2800304013021.000 1320 Willoughby Rd. Appeal regarding flags Greer Massey is Appealing After a review of the barriers, I find these to fit into the definition of a flag. Section 4.3.7 of the Zoning Code entitled *Height Regulations*, flags are exempt from height regulations and do not appear to be in violation (a copy of that section is attached). The objects do not fit the Code's definition of a banner nor a wind sign as they are not advertising a product nor subjected to the blowing of the wind.

I could not locate anything in the code in which to classify these objects.

If the City Clerk could not locate anything by which to classify these objects, the decision to classify them as flags is subjective and we contend is at variance with the intent of Section 2.1.52.

Casual observation confirms these are not "flags" according to the word's common definition. The first three hits of a Google search of 'flag definition' follow.







The objects in question do not represent a country, or group. Nor do they have a distinctive design. We submit is it unreasonable to define them as "flags".

The image below shows a closer view of the objects.



Note multiple metal-rimmed tie-down holes (eyelets) around the perimeter. Such eyelets are commonly found in tarps, not around the full perimeter of flags.

Note the objects are attached at multiple eyelets across standard chain-link fence post and top-rail material and hardware; once again not consistent with the definition of "flag". The posts and top-rails were in fact erected at the same time as the wooden fence below them, by the same fence company. These are not flag poles. This is fencing material typical of that available on the hooverfence.com site.





The objects in question are definitely not meant to blow in the wind like flags.

"Flags" do not have what appear to be lead scuba weights attached to them. The image below shows purposeful weighting, so they do not blow in the wind, allowing them to consistently screen the land behind them. Again note the presence of metal eyelets typical of tarps, not flags.



**Taking a step back** to give the board a frame of reference is warranted and further illustrates that the installation intent is a fence.

In the fall of 2018, an out-of-code fence (over 10 feet tall) was erected in virtually the same location. A conditional use variance was sought by the homeowner to allow the out-of-code height. The variance request was reviewed and challenged at the April 2019 meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Commission voted unanimously against the request, 6 to 0. Details are in the May 2019 Planning and Zoning Commission agenda.

The ruling was then appealed by the homeowner before the City Council in June 2019. The City Council similarly unanimously voted against the request, 4 to 0. Details are in the June 24, 2019 City Council agenda. Both the Commission and Council unanimously agreed the previous structure was not appropriate nor desirable, and negatively impacted the community.

The clerk's unilateral ruling we are appealing stems from the owner's continuing attempts to reestablish an out-of-code fence. The fact that the chain-link fencing posts and top-rails were installed at the time the previous out-of-code wooden fence was rebuilt to be outwardly compliant (the tarps were not installed until later) demonstrates a clear intent to blatantly subvert unanimous city rulings by restoring (and actually exceeding by approximately two feet) the previous non-compliant fence height using tarps attached to the chain link fence posts and top-rails.

The 4' by 8' tarps are not "flags". This is a "fence" according to Section 2.1.52. The purpose of these objects, or anything else, used in this manner is meant to screen areas of land making them by definition, a fence. Indeed, it appears Section 2.1.52 was formulated to deal with situations such as this.

Letting this decision stand affirms willful defiance of both Planning and Zoning Commission and City Counsel. It sets precedent that will detract from our community and negatively impact residents.

We respectfully appeal the clerk's decision and ask that the new tarp-fencing be judged non-compliant and ordered removed.

# SYNOPSIS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING APPLICATION BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

Date: **AUGUST 20, 2020** 

• <u>CASE</u>: BZA-0820-18

• **REQUESTED ACTION:** 2' front setback variance to reduce the setback to 7' in lieu of the approved 9' & 2' rear setback variance to reduce the setback to 28' in lieu of the required 30'.

• ADDRESS/LOCATION: 901 Granbury Road

• **APPLICANT/OWNER:** Howard Neely

• **REPRESENTING AGENT:** N/A

• **GENERAL DISCUSSION:** Applicant is seeking a front and rear setback variance to complete renovations on the current house. The applicant came before the Board in August 2019 and was approved for a 41' front setback variance. Since then, the applicant got a foundation survey done, as is the process for the addition, and found out he would be less than 2' inside the approved setback in the front and less than 2' in the rear. The applicant contends that corner lot and public alleys in the rear and on the side causes the hardship. This action would just be an update to the previously approved setback. Since the previous meeting, City staff met about whether this was a corner lot or not. According to the code, a corner lot is "a lot abutting upon two or more streets at their intersection or on two parts of the same street forming an interior angle of less than 135 degrees." Then we defined what a street is. A street is, "any vehicular way that is (1) an existing state, county, or municipal roadway; (2) shown upon a plat approved pursuant to law; (3) approved by other official action; (4) shown on a plat duly filed and recorded in the office of the applicable county tax assessor; (5) shown on the official map or adopted master plan. It includes the land between the street lines, whether improved or not." The original record map for this subdivision, as well as the most recent recorded resurvey, shows this as a street pursuant to numbers 2 and 4 of the definition of a street. Mr. Wakefield spoke with the city engineers. Both Christopher Brady and Lori Beth Kearley stated that, while this isn't a maintained street, it is still an official street in the eyes of the City. The applicant's property is zoned Vestavia Hills R-2.

#### • STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

1. City Planner Review: No problems noted.

2. City Engineer Review: No problems noted.

# CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION

The owner of the property understands that the Board of Zoning Adjustment only has jurisdiction to grant variances from the Vestavia Hills Zoning Code in cases of undue hardship only. Variances cannot be considered or granted on any kind of private covenants as covenants are restrictions between property owners.

EXAMPLE: If you are asking for a variance from a building setback line and the building setback line is recorded on the plat and matches the Zoning Code, then the Board of Zoning Adjustment would only hear the case based on the Zoning Code requirements, not what is on the recorded plat. The recorded plat is a covenant between property owners of the subdivision. You must have signatures of every property owner on the recorded plat map to change the covenant portion of the setback. The letter of signatures approving the amendment of the covenants must be filed with the Office of the Probate Court. Again, the BZA can only grant a variance based on the Zoning Code and that is the only portion of the building setback changes that the BZA can vote upon. Once a waiver is filed with the Office of the Probate, please include a copy of the recorded amendment with the application to the Office of the City Clerk.

Please note: Only completed applications will be accepted by this office. The applicant is responsible for the Application Fee as well as all postage fees incurred by this request.

<u>I.</u>	APPLICAN	T INFORMATION:
	Owner of Pr	operty (This Section Must Be Completed)
	Name:	HOWARD NEELY
	Address:	901 GPANBURY ROAD
	Phone #:	205-7572005 Other#:
	E-Mail:	WARD, NEELY @ PEPHOPERTY PARTNERS, con
	Billing/Resp	onsible Party
	Name:	Samo
	Address:	
	Phone #:	Other #: Z0820-18//2800301009001,000
	E-Mail:	901 Granbury Rd. Front & rear setback for renovation
	-	of home

Howard Neely

	Representing Attorney/Other Agent		
	Name:		
	Address	:	
	Phone #	: Other #:	
	E-Mail:		
	*This se	ction must be completed in order for a representative to represent the owner.	
II.	DESCR	IPTION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY:	
	LOCAT	ION: 901 GRANBURY ROAD  Street Address	
		Subdivision name, Lot #, Block #, etc.	
III.	REASO	NS FOR REQUEST (PLEASE FILL IN APPLICABLE STATEMENTS):	
	1. (	A request to vary:	
	_	variance to reduce the lot width to, in lieu of the required,	
	_ C	square foot variance to reduce the lot area to square feet in lieu of the required square feet.	
	_	front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to in lieu of the required	
	-	front/side rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to required 5.6.	
	_	' front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to ' in lieu of the required'.	
	2. (	A decision of the Zoning Official which the applicant believes to be contrary to the meaning of the Zoning Ordinance.	
	3. (	An application to establish a use which must be approved by the Board of	
	4 ( 5. ( 6. ( 7. (	Zoning Adjustment (See Section).  A request for extension of non-conforming use (See Section).  Variance for location of a fence.  Sign Code Variance (See Section).  Other - Explain (See Section).	

Z0820-18//2800301009001.000
901 Granbury Rd.
Front & rear setback for renovation of home Howard Neely

# Z0820-18//2800301009001.000 901 Granbury Rd.

Front & rear setback for renovation of home Howard Neely

BZA Application Revised April 1, 2019 Page 5

IV. ZONING

Vestavia Hills Zoning for the subject property is\_

# V. HARDSHIP

Describe those things which you feel justify the action requested. An Undue Hardship is required in order to seek a variance. List, when necessary, the specific sections of the City Code(s) which have a bearing on your request. (Use additional space on separate page if necessary).

multiple front setbacks corner lot

## VI. PROJECT:

Describe the scope of the project and/or the reason for requesting this variance.

return to adjust from miscalculation from 1960's Survey to anchitects plans

## VII. OWNER AFFIDAVIT:

I do hereby declare the above statements are true and that I, the owner, and/or my duly appointed representative will be at the scheduled hearing. I, also, understand that I am asking for a variance based on the Zoning Code only and not on any or all covenants that are on the subject property. \*Note, this application must be signed by the owner of the property before a notary. The original application shall be submitted, no copies shall be accepted\*

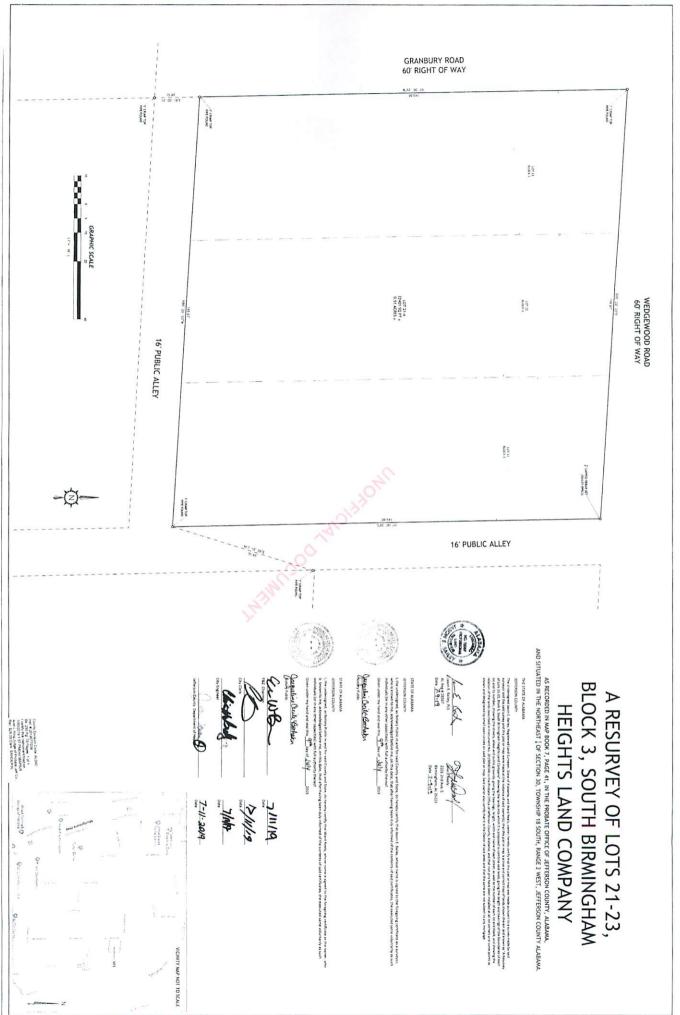
CATAN.	
Owner Signature/Date	Representing Agent (if any)/date
Given under my hand and seal	
this, 20	Sammen Comment
Notary Public 25	CABITO COMPANY
My commission expires	The state of the s
day of Oct. , 20 23.	My Commission Expires
	October 30, 2023

- 2.1.62. *Half Story*. See "Story, Half Story".
- 2.1.63. Housekeeping Unit or Single
  Housekeeping Unit. A family living
  together in a single dwelling unit, with
  common access to and common use of all
  living and eating areas and facilities for
  the preparation and serving of food
  within the dwelling unit.
- 2.1.64. *Improvements*. Those physical additions and changes to the land that may be necessary to produce usable and desirable developments including but not limited to driveways, landscaping, streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, sewer, and stormwater control facilities.
- 2.1.65. *Interim Use*. Any temporary use of land in any area of a planned development, which has been approved as a part of the Master Development Plan and criteria. An interim use can be any use and may or may not be a permitted use or a conditional use in the applicable district.
- 2.1.66. *Intersection Sight Distance*. The length of the line of sight between a motorist, stopped at an intersection, and the nearest intersection, driveway, alley or other signalized or non-signalized access point to the left or to the right of the motorist.
- 2.1.67. Junk. Materials including scrap, copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber debris, waste iron, steel and other old or scrap ferrous or non-ferrous material, including wrecked, scrapped, ruined, dismantled or junked motor vehicles or parts thereof.
- 2.1.68. Landscape Architect. A landscape architect registered by the State of Alabama.
- 2.1.69. *Landscaping*. Treatment of grade with ground cover, shrubs, trees and other vegetation, and/or ornamentation
  - 1. *Building Landscaping*. A landscaped strip between a building and its lot

- boundary or off-street parking area, as required by <u>§9.2 Site Landscaping</u>.
- 2. Frontage Landscaping. A landscaped strip between off-street parking areas or buildings and adjacent public streets as required by §9.2 Site Landscaping.
- 3. *Interior Landscaping*. Landscaping within an off-street parking area as required by §9.2 Site Landscaping.
- 4. *Perimeter Landscaping*. A landscaped strip between an off-street parking area and abutting lots. Perimeter landscaping does not include landscaping between an off-street parking area and buildings on the same lot.
- 2.1.70. *Livestock*. Animals of any kind, including fish and fowl, kept, bred or raised for commercial or other purposes, excluding house pets such as domestic cats and dogs, fish, fowl, and other similar animals kept for personal pleasure in accordance with regulations of the Health Department and applicable animal control authority of the applicable County.
- 2.1.71. *Lot*. A designated Parcel, tract or area of land established by plat, subdivision, or as otherwise permitted by law, to be separately owned, used, developed, or built upon.
  - 1. *Corner Lot*. A lot abutting upon two or more streets at their intersection or on two parts of the same street forming an interior angle of less than 135 degrees.
  - 2. *Flag Lot*. A lot that does not meet the lot width requirements of its district within the normally required front yard setback.
  - 3. *Interior Lot*. Any lot which is not a corner lot.
  - 4. *Reverse Frontage Lot*. A through lot with vehicular access restricted to the street of lesser classification.

- 2.1.101. *Site*. Area of a lot occupied by a structure.
- 2.1.102. *Stacking Space*. A space intended for the queuing of vehicles to a drive-through window, fuel pump, ATM or similar standing point.
- 2.1.103. *Story*. That portion of a building included between the surface of any floor and the surface of the floor next above it, or, if there be no floor above it, then the space between the floor and the ceiling next above it.
  - 1. Half Story. A space under a sloping roof in which space the possible floor area with headroom of five (5) feet or less contains at least forty (40) percent of the total floor area of the story directly beneath it; or a building story that contains not more than fifty (50) percent of the total floor area of the story directly beneath it.
- 2.1.104. *Street*. Any vehicular way that is (1) an existing state, county, or municipal roadway; (2) shown upon a plat approved pursuant to law; (3) approved by other official action; (4) shown on a plat duly filed and recorded in the office of the applicable county tax assessor; (5) shown on the official map or adopted master plan. It includes the land between the street lines, whether improved or not.
  - 1. Access Drive. A private street providing access to a development from a street on which the development has only a very narrow street frontage.
  - 2. Access Street. A minor street, which is parallel and in close proximity to a higher order street and that provides access to abutting properties. Also commonly referred to as a frontage road or service road.
  - 3. *Arterial*. A street that distributes traffic to and from collectors. Arterials include

- U.S. Highway 31, U.S. Highway 280, and Columbiana Road.
- 4. Collector. A street that collects traffic from local streets and connects with minor and major arterials. Collector streets include, but are not limited to, Acton Road, Altadena Road, Cahaba Heights Road, Cahaba River Road, Crosshaven Drive, Dolly Ridge Road, Green Valley Road, Massey Road, Rocky Ridge Road, Shades Crest Road, and Tyler Road.
- 5. *Cul-de-sac*. A local street terminating in a vehicular turnaround at one end.
- 6. *Local Street*. A street used primarily to provide access to abutting properties.
- 2.1.105. *Street Centerline*. A line running parallel with the street right-of-way which is half the distance between the extreme edges of the official right-of-way width as surveyed, or where not surveyed, half the distance from the edges of payement.
- 2.1.106. *Structure*. Anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires a location on the ground, or attached to something having a location on the ground, including but not limited to buildings, signs, billboards, backstops for tennis courts, fences, or radio tower.
- 2.1.107. *Structural Alterations*. Any change in the supporting members of a building or structure, such as bearing walls, columns, beams or girders.
- 2.1.108. *Temporary Building*. Portable, mobile or transportable contractor's construction buildings, the use of which is incidental to construction operations being conducted on the same or adjoining lot or tract will be allowed with permit all districts, provided they are not used as a dwelling.



# SYNOPSIS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING APPLICATION BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

Date: **SEPTEMBER 17, 2020** 

• <u>CASE</u>: BZA-0920-25

- **REQUESTED ACTION:** 10' side setback variance to reduce the setback to 5' in lieu of the required 15' & a 15' lot width variance to reduce the lot width to 85' in lieu of the required 100' & a 2500 square footage variance to reduce the square footage to 12,500 in lieu of the required 15,000.
- ADDRESS/LOCATION: 2120 Chestnut Road
- **APPLICANT/OWNER**: Jeff Jantz
- **REPRESENTING AGENT:** Carolyn R. Taylor
- **GENERAL DISCUSSION:** Applicant is seeking multiple variances to add a bedroom and bathroom addition. The applicants contend that the under-sized lot causes a hardship needed for the width and square footage variances. This is needed to clean up the lot, so it can become a lot of record. Also, there is a tank that services the kitchen located in the rear that prevents the building in the backyard. The applicants have said that after the variances are approved, they will work to have this lot resurveyed and recorded with the County. Currently the house sits on two lots. The applicant's property is zoned Vestavia Hills R-2.

#### • STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. City Planner Review: No problems noted.
- **2. City Engineer Review:** No problems noted.
- 3. City Fire Marshal Review: No problems noted.
- 4. **Building Safety Review:** No problems noted.

20920-25//2800191010012.000 2120 Chestnut Rd. Side Setback for an addition Jeff Jantz

BZA Application Revised April 1, 2019 Page 3

# CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION

The owner of the property understands that the Board of Zoning Adjustment only has jurisdiction to grant variances from the Vestavia Hills Zoning Code in cases of undue hardship only. Variances cannot be considered or granted on any kind of private covenants as covenants are restrictions between property owners.

EXAMPLE: If you are asking for a variance from a building setback line and the building setback line is recorded on the plat and matches the Zoning Code, then the Board of Zoning Adjustment would only hear the case based on the Zoning Code requirements, not what is on the recorded plat. The recorded plat is a covenant between property owners of the subdivision. You must have signatures of every property owner on the recorded plat map to change the covenant portion of the setback. The letter of signatures approving the amendment of the covenants must be filed with the Office of the Probate Court. Again, the BZA can only grant a variance based on the Zoning Code and that is the only portion of the building setback changes that the BZA can vote upon. Once a waiver is filed with the Office of the Probate, please include a copy of the recorded amendment with the application to the Office of the City Clerk.

Please note: Only completed applications will be accepted by this office. The applicant is responsible for the Application Fee as well as all postage fees incurred by this request.

Name:	roperty (This Section Must Be Completed)  Jeff Jantz		
Address:	2120 Chestnut Road		٠.,
	Vestavia Hills, AL 35216		• • •
Phone #:	(205) 757-7617	Other #:	
E-Mail:	jjantz@brasfieldgorrie.com		د
Billing/Resp	onsible Party		<u>&gt;</u>
Name:	Jeff Jantz		
Address:	2120 Chestnut Road Vestavia	Hills, AL 35216	•
Phone #:	(205) 757-7617	Other #:	
E-Mail:	jjantz@brasfieldgorrie.com		

	Representing Attorney/Other Agent	
Name:		Carolyn R. Taylor, Carrie Taylor Architect, LLC
	Address:	833 Oxmoor Road
		Birmingham, AL 35209
	Phone #:	(205) 835-8069 Other #:
	E-Mail:	carrie@carrietaylorarchitect.com
	*This section	must be completed in order for a representative to represent the owner.
II	DESCRIPTION	ON OF SUBJECT PROPERTY:
	LOCATION:	2120 Chestnut Road Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
	Biltmara Estat	Street Address
	Billillore Estati	es, Lot 9 and the East 35' of Lot 10, Block 8  Subdivision name, Lot #, Block #, etc.
III.	REASONS F	OR REQUEST (PLEASE FILL IN APPLICABLE STATEMENTS):
	1. (1)	A request to vary:
	15	variance to reduce the lot width to <u><b>35</b></u> in lieu of the required.
	2500	square foot variance to reduce the lot area to 1250 square feet in lieu
	of the required 1500 square feet.	
		_' front(side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to _' in lieu of the required15'.
		_' front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to' in lieu of the required'.
		_' front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to _' in lieu of the required'.
	2.	A decision of the Zoning Official which the applicant believes to be contrary to the meaning of the Zoning Ordinance.
	3.	An application to establish a use which must be approved by the Board of
	4	Zoning Adjustment (See Section).  A request for extension of non-conforming use (See Section ).
	5.	Variance for location of a fence.
	6. ( <u> </u>	Sign Code Variance (See Section). Other - Explain (See Section).
		Z0920-25//2800191010012.000 2120 Chestnut Rd. Side Setback for an addition Jeff Jantz

Side Setback for an addition

Jeff Jantz

#### IV. ZONING

Vestavia Hills Zoning for the subject property is R-2

#### V. HARDSHIP

Describe those things which you feel justify the action requested. An Undue Hardship is required in order to seek a variance. List, when necessary, the specific sections of the City Code(s) which have a bearing on your request. (Use additional space on separate page if necessary).

Our lot is zoned R-2 which requires minimum lot width of 100' and minimum lot area of 15,000 SF. Our lot at 2120 Chestnut is only 85.18' wide and 12,750 SF lot size. The hardship is we have a smaller buildable area than other lots zoned R-2; therefore, we are requesting the variances noted below to allow the proposed addition.

#### VI. PROJECT:

Describe the scope of the project and/or the reason for requesting this variance.

The scope of the project is a 547 SF addition of one bedroom and one bathroom on the west end of the house. The reason for requesting the variance is our lot has a smaller buildable area as indicated above than other houses zoned R-2 (85.18 lot width and 12,750 SF lot size) and therefore are requesting the variances noted below to allow for the proposed addition. The project also includes the addition of a front porch but this part of the project will remain within the R-2 setback requirements (50' front setback).

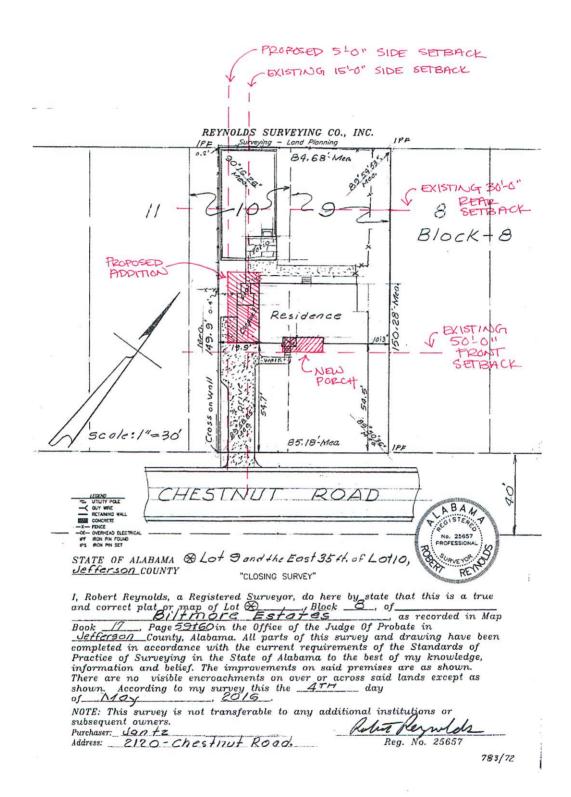
#### VII. OWNER AFFIDAVIT:

day of Thrember

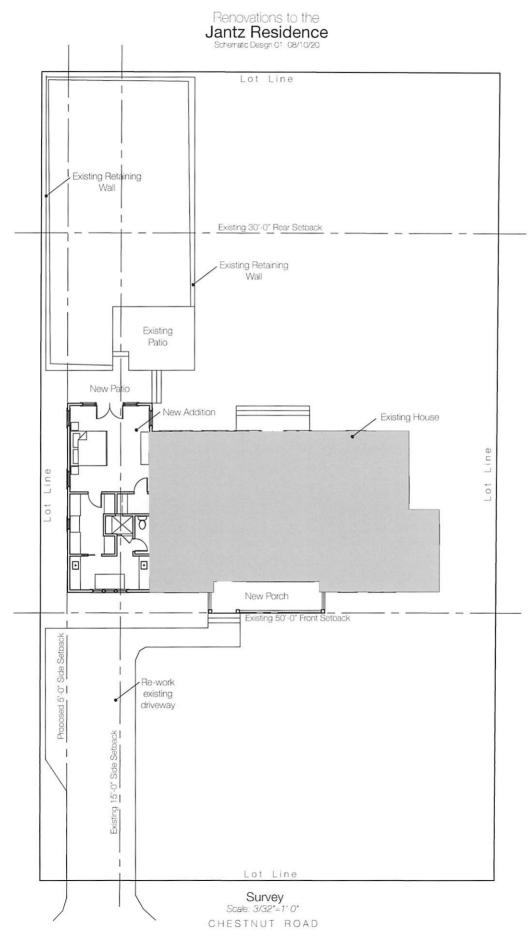
I do hereby declare the above statements are true and that I, the owner, and/or my duly appointed representative will be at the scheduled hearing. I, also, understand that I am asking for a variance based on the Zoning Code only and not on any or all covenants that are on the subject property. \*Note, this application must be signed by the owner of the property before a notary. The original application shall be submitted, no copies shall be accepted\*

Owner Signature/Date	Representing Agent (if any)/date
Given under my hand and seal this 1 day of August, 2020.	
Shevier Regnal of  Notary Public  My commission expires 15th	Z0920-25//2800191010012.000 2120 Chestnut Pd

, 20 De







## CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS

## SYNOPSIS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING APPLICATION BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

Date: **SEPTEMBER 17, 2020** 

• <u>CASE</u>: BZA-0920-22

• **REQUESTED ACTION:** 4' front setback variance to reduce the setback to 8' in lieu of the required 12'.

• ADDRESS/LOCATION: 3941 Knollwood Trace

• **APPLICANT/OWNER:** Sheilah Nelson

• **REPRESENTING AGENT**: N/A

• **GENERAL DISCUSSION:** Applicant is seeking a front setback variance to add a screened in porch. The applicant contends that the corner lot causes the hardship. The screened in porch will cover the existing patio and will front Sunview Drive. A covenants waiver has been drafted, signed, and recorded with the County to null the front setback requirement. The applicant's property is zoned Vestavia Hills R-6.

## • STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

1. City Planner Review: No problems noted.

**2. City Engineer Review:** No problems noted.

3. City Fire Marshal Review: No problems noted.

4. **Building Safety Review:** No problems noted.

BZA Application Revised April 1, 2019 Page 3

## CILY OF VESTAVIA HILLS BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION

The owner of the property understands that the Board of Zoning Adjustment only has jurisdiction to grant variances from the Vestavia Hills Zoning Code in cases of undue hardship only. Variances cannot be considered or granted on any kind of private covenants as covenants are restrictions between property owners.

EXAMPLE: If you are asking for a variance from a building setback line and the building setback line is recorded on the plat and matches the Zoning Code, then the Board of Zoning Adjustment would only hear the case based on the Zoning Code requirements, not what is on the recorded plat. The recorded plat is a covenant between property owners of the subdivision. You must have signatures of every property owner on the recorded plat map to change the covenant portion of the setback. The letter of signatures approving the amendment of the covenants must be filed with the Office of the Probate Court. Again, the BZA can only grant a variance based on the Zoning Code and that is the only portion of the building setback changes that the BZA can vote upon. Once a waiver is filed with the Office of the Probate, please include a copy of the recorded amendment with the application to the Office of the City Clerk.

Please note: Only completed applications will be accepted by this office. The applicant is responsible for the Application Fee as well as all postage fees incurred by this request.

<u>I.</u>	APPLICA	APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
	Owner of P	Owner of Property (This Section Must Be Completed)		
	Name:	SHEILAH M. NelsON		
	Address:	3941 Knollwood TRACE		
		Vestauia, Ac 35243		
	Phone #:	205.298-1155 Other#: 205-903-5521		
	E-Mail:	SHEILAH Nel @ 201. Com		
	Billing/Resp	onsible Party		
	Name:	Same as about		
	Address:			
	Phone #:	Other #:		
	E-Mail:			

	Representing	Attorney/Other Agent			
	Name:	Name:			
	Address:				
	Phone #:	Other #:			
	E-Mail:				
	*This section	must be completed in order for a representative to represent the owner.			
II.	DESCRIPT	ION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY:			
		Street Address  OOD TRACE Garden Homes Lot 1  Subdivision name, Lot #, Block #, etc.			
Ш.	REASONS	FOR REQUEST (PLEASE FILL IN APPLICABLE STATEMENTS):			
	of the	A request to vary:			

## Z0920-22//2800153009016.000 3941 Knollwood Trace Front Setback for a covered deck Sheilah Nelson

BZA Application Revised April 1, 2019 Page 5

## IV. ZONING

Vestavia Hills Zoning for the subject property is\_

## V. HARDSHIP

Describe those things which you feel justify the action requested. An Undue Hardship is required in order to seek a variance. List, when necessary, the specific sections of the City Code(s) which have a bearing on your request. (Use additional space on separate page if necessary).

See separate page

## VI. PROJECT:

Describe the scope of the project and/or the reason for requesting this variance.

## VII. OWNER AFFIDAVIT:

I do hereby declare the above statements are true and that I, the owner, and/or my duly appointed representative will be at the scheduled hearing. I, also, understand that I am asking for a variance based on the Zoning Code only and not on any or all covenants that are on the subject property. \*Note, this application must be signed by the owner of the property before a notary. The original application shall be submitted, no copies shall be accepted\*

Shelak Nelson 7/16/2020_ Owner Signature/Date	Representing Agent (if any)/date
Given under my hand and seal this	
Notary Public  My commission expires  day of	TAMMIE CHAFTON My Commission Expires October 24, 2020

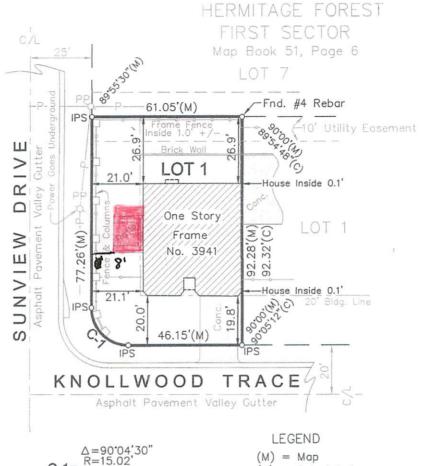
## AS-BUILT SURVEY

Description: LOT 1 KNOLLWOOD TRACE GARDEN HOMES, as recorded in Map Book 152, Page 74, in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Jefferson County, Alabama.

The correct address is: 3941 Knollwood Trace

Birmingham, AL 35243





C-1 = R=15.02' A=23.58'(M)A=23.61'(C)

(C) = Calculated

C/L = Center Line

Fnd. = Found

PP = Power Pole

IPS = Set #5 Rebar

STATE OF ALABAMA: JEFFERSON COUNTY:

I, James R. Boatright, Sr., a Licensed Land Surveyor, do hereby certify that all parts of this survey and drawing have been completed in accordance with the current requirements of the Standards of Practice for Land Surveying in the State of Alabama, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

According to my survey this the 24th day of July, 2020

No. 17826

James R. Roatright, Sr., AL REG. NO. 17826 704 Mary Vann Lane, Birmingham AL 35215 Phone (205) 854–3669 Fax (205) 854–0071

Z0920-22//2800153009016.000 3941 Knollwood Trace

Front Setback for a covered deck Sheilah Nelson

103/8

### REASONS FOR BUILDING SCREEN IN DECK

- Want to be able to walk out of my kitchen directly to porch — have slipped several times stepping from wet when rains — cement steps up to kitchen with hardwood floors very slippery.
- 2. Can't enjoy existing deck now due to all new construction across the street — feel unsafe sitting on my existing deck and having construction people in the big trucks sitting looking straight on my patio — have no barrier to block their view or anyone's view.
- 3. Since the new construction (they cleared woods to develop new subdivision) and now all the animals have come into our area in point I had a very large black snake sitting on my patio that I did not see at first at night until after I sat down Also have lots of chipmunks that run across my deck so being terrified of snakes and chipmunks I need a barrier between them and me.

Z0920-22//2800153009016.000 3941 Knollwood Trace Front Setback for a covered deck Sheilah Nelson

## CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS

## SYNOPSIS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING APPLICATION BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

Date: **SEPTEMBER 17, 2020** 

• <u>CASE</u>: BZA-0920-23

- **REQUESTED ACTION:** 4' front setback variance to reduce the setback to 30' in lieu of the previously approved 34' & a 3' side setback variance to reduce the setback to 12' in lieu of the required 15'.
- **ADDRESS/LOCATION**: 2013 Vesthaven Way
- APPLICANT/OWNER: John Michael & Myra Price Grund
- **REPRESENTING AGENT:** N/A
- **GENERAL DISCUSSION:** Applicants are seeking a front and rear setback variance to build an addition on the side of the current home. The applicants contend there is a hardship because the lot is a corner lot. There is a 50' recorded front setback. The applicant drafted a covenants waiver, which was signed by all the required property owners, and recorded it with Jefferson County. The applicants previously received a variance for the front setback, but after a foundation survey they found out that they would be encroaching into the approved setback. To clean this up, and to begin starting on the construction, they need to request a variance for that extra few feet. The applicant's property is zoned Vestavia Hills R-2.

## • STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. City Planner Review: No problems noted.
- **2. City Engineer Review:** No problems noted.
- 3. City Fire Marshal Review: No problems noted.
- 4. **Building Safety Review:** No problems noted.

**BZA** Application Revised April 1, 2019

# 012 case No; 7570 **CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION**

The owner of the property understands that the Board of Zoning Adjustment only has jurisdiction to grant variances from the Vestavia Hills Zoning Code in cases of undue hardship only. Variances cannot be considered or granted on any kind of private covenants as covenants are restrictions between property owners.

EXAMPLE: If you are asking for a variance from a building setback line and the building setback line is recorded on the plat and matches the Zoning Code, then the Board of Zoning Adjustment would only hear the case based on the Zoning Code requirements, not what is on the recorded plat. The recorded plat is a covenant between property owners of the subdivision. You must have signatures of every property owner on the recorded plat map to change the covenant portion of the setback. The letter of signatures approving the amendment of the covenants must be filed with the Office of the Probate Court. Again, the BZA can only grant a variance based on the Zoning Code and that is the only portion of the building setback changes that the BZA can vote upon. Once a waiver is filed with the Office of the Probate, please include a copy of the recorded amendment with the application to the Office of the City Clerk.

Please note: Only completed applications will be accepted by this office. The applicant is responsible for the Application Fee as well as all postage fees incurred by this request.

I. AP	PLICANT IN	FORMATION:		
Owner of Property (This Section Must Be Completed)				
Nan	ne: J	The Michael Go	rund & My	ra Price Grund
Add	iress:z	2013 Vesthaven	Way	
		lestavia AL	35216	
Pho	ne #:	05 637 6822	Other #:	205 602 7229
E-M	ſail:			
Billi	ing/Responsibl	e Party		
Nan	ne:	See ABOVE		
Add	dress:			
Pho	ne #:		Other #:	
E-M	1ail:			

	Representing	g Attorney/Other Agent
	Name:	NONE
	Address:	
	Phone #:	Other #:
	E-Mail:	
	*This section	n must be completed in order for a representative to represent the owner.
II.	DESCRIPT	ION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY:
	LOCATION	: 2013 Vothaux Way Street Address
		Subdivision name, Lot #, Block #, etc.
III.	REASONS 1.	FOR REQUEST (PLEASE FILL IN APPLICABLE STATEMENTS):  A request to vary:
	of the 4 1 30 3	yariance to reduce the lot width to, in lieu of the required, square foot variance to reduce the lot area to square feet in lieu required square feet.  'tront/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to in lieu of the required, '.  'front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to in lieu of the required, '.  'front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to in lieu of the required, '.
	2.	A decision of the Zoning Official which the applicant believes to be contrary to the meaning of the Zoning Ordinance.  An application to establish a use which must be approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment (See Section).  A request for extension of non-conforming use (See Section).  Variance for location of a fence.  Sign Code Variance (See Section).  Other - Explain (See Section).

## IV. ZONING

Vestavia Hills Zoning for the subject property is\_

## V. HARDSHIP

Describe those things which you feel justify the action requested. An Undue Hardship is required in order to seek a variance. List, when necessary, the specific sections of the City Code(s) which have a bearing on your request. (Use additional space on separate page if necessary).

Corner Lot

## VI. PROJECT:

Describe the scope of the project and/or the reason for requesting this variance.

revising various request for addition

## VII. OWNER AFFIDAVIT:

I do hereby declare the above statements are true and that I, the owner, and/or my duly appointed representative will be at the scheduled hearing. I, also, understand that I am asking for a variance based on the Zoning Code only and not on any or all covenants that are on the subject property. \*Note, this application must be signed by the owner of the property before a notary. The original application shall be submitted, no copies shall be accepted\*

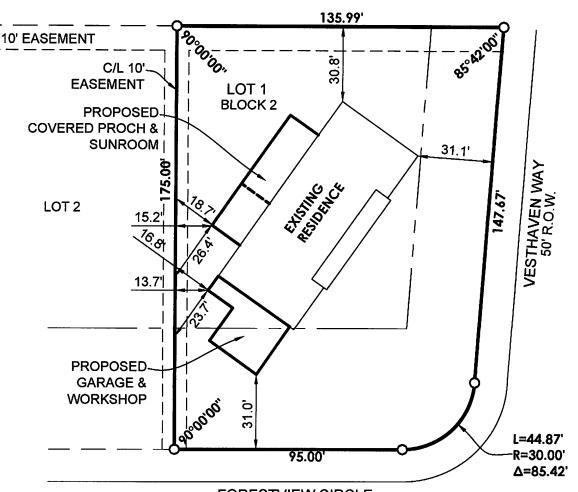
John Muston & Thered	
Owner Signature/Date	Representing Agent (if any)/date
Given under my hand and seal	

Given under my hand and seal this \_7.8 day of \_Tuly\_\_\_\_, 20\_26\_

Notdry Public
My commission expires 30

My commission expires 50 day of 04ober, 20 20

My Commission Expires
October 30, 2023



FORESTVIEW CIRCLE (SHOWN AS DOGWOOD CIRCLE ON RECORDED PLAT) 50' R.O.W.

SCALE: 1" = 30'

## **PLOT PLAN**

LOT 1 BLOCK 2 OF
VESTHAVEN FIRST SECTOR
MAP BOOK 45 PAGE 38
JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA
PREPARED FOR: SPEEGLE CONST
PREPARED 8/11/20 BY:MA
PROJECT #75299

NOTE TO PROSPECTIVE HOME OWNER: THE DRIVEWAY LOCATION SHOWN ON THIS PLOT PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO BEST MATCH THE LOT GRADE AND/OR EXISTING UTILITY APPURTENANCES.

ARRINGTON ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING INC. PERFORMED NO SURVEYING, TITLE SEARCH, OR FLOOD ZONE DETERMINATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE PREPARATION OF THIS PLOT PLAN. WE MAKE NO GUARANTEE THAT THIS PROPERTY IS NOT SUBJECT TO ANY ADDITIONAL EASEMENTS, SETBACKS, RESTRICTIONS OR COVENANTS, OTHER THAN THOSE SHOWN ON THIS PLOT PLAN. THE BUILDER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING ALL LOT RESTRICTIONS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.

APPROVED TO STAKE BY:



CIVII ENGINEERS - SURVEYORS - LAND Planners Office: (205) 985-9315 Fax: (205) 985-9385 2032 Vaueyoale Roap Birminsham AL 35244

# STATE OF ALABAMA JEFFERSON COUNTY

Z-0320-03//2800304005007.000 2013 Vesthaven Way Front Variance for a garage John & Myra Grund

## **NULLIFICATION OF RESTRICTION**

The undersigned majority of the owners of lots in the survey recorded as: MAP OF VESTHAVEN – FIRST SECTOR, MAP VOLUME 45, PAGE 38 agree to Offer LOT #1, Block 2 relief from the side building setback of 50 feet due to Hardships.

John Michael Gru	ınd Lot #1 Bl	ock 2
1 1 De 11 de		Date: 2/3/2020
Owner - See / h / Lance /1. / lordy	_ Lot no. <u>/</u>	Date: 43/2020
		Date: 2/3/2020
Owner Michelle S. Schmidtke	_Lot no. <u>5</u>	Date: <u>1/3/2020</u>
Owner Taylor Triantos	_Lot no. <u>Z</u>	Date: 2/3/2020
Owner Asse ne	Lot no. 🔰	Date: <u>2/3/20</u> 2C
Owner Kaye Carlisle	Lot no. <b>§</b> 7	_Date: <u>2/3/2020</u>
Owner JOHN M. CLITA	_ Lot no. 👤	Date: 2/16/20
Owner	_ Lot no	, ,
0410		
Owner - M	_Lot no. <u> </u>	Date: 2-3-2020
Owner	_ Lot no	
Owner Sucher (12)	_Lot no. <u>&amp;</u>	Date: 2/3/2020
Owner	_ Lot no	<b>,</b>

## CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS

## SYNOPSIS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING APPLICATION BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

Date: **SEPTEMBER 17, 2020** 

• <u>CASE</u>: BZA-0920-24

• **REQUESTED ACTION:** 10' side setback variance to reduce the setback to 10' in lieu of the required 20'.

• ADDRESS/LOCATION: 3172 Belwood Drive

• **APPLICANT/OWNER:** Julie Maseele

• **REPRESENTING AGENT**: N/A

• **GENERAL DISCUSSION:** Applicant is seeking a side setback variance to add an addition for storage. The applicant contends that the R-5 apartment zoning causes the hardship. The lot was an old carry over zoning from Jefferson County. Also, the lot is abnormally wide and not very deep. The addition cannot go into the rear, as it would need a variance, and must go on the side. The topography prevents construction on the left side of the lot, as the terrain slopes down. The lot is surrounded by R-4 lots, and this action would keep the property consistent with the surrounding lots with an R-4 10' setback. The applicant's property is zoned Vestavia Hills R-5.

### • STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

1. City Planner Review: No problems noted.

2. City Engineer Review: No problems noted.

3. City Fire Marshal Review: No problems noted.

4. **Building Safety Review:** No problems noted.

Z0920-24//2800221006010.000 3172 Belwood Drive Side Setback for a pergola Julie Maeseele

BZA Application Revised April 1, 2019 Page 3

## CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION

The owner of the property understands that the Board of Zoning Adjustment only has jurisdiction to grant variances from the Vestavia Hills Zoning Code in cases of undue hardship only. Variances cannot be considered or granted on any kind of private covenants as covenants are restrictions between property owners.

EXAMPLE: If you are asking for a variance from a building setback line and the building setback line is recorded on the plat and matches the Zoning Code, then the Board of Zoning Adjustment would only hear the case based on the Zoning Code requirements, not what is on the recorded plat. The recorded plat is a covenant between property owners of the subdivision. You must have signatures of every property owner on the recorded plat map to change the covenant portion of the setback. The letter of signatures approving the amendment of the covenants must be filed with the Office of the Probate Court. Again, the BZA can only grant a variance based on the Zoning Code and that is the only portion of the building setback changes that the BZA can vote upon. Once a waiver is filed with the Office of the Probate, please include a copy of the recorded amendment with the application to the Office of the City Clerk.

Please note: Only completed applications will be accepted by this office. The applicant is responsible for the Application Fee as well as all postage fees incurred by this request.

<u>I.</u>	APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
	Owner of Property (This Section Must Be Completed)		
	Name:	OLIE MAESEELE	
	Address:	3172 BELWOOD DR	
		VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35243	
	Phone #:	205 434 0904 Other #: 205 382 5 407	
	E-Mail:	JULIEMAESEELE @ 6MAIL COM	
	Billing/Respo	nsible Party	
	Name:	JULE MAESEELE	
	Address:	3171 BELWOOD DR	
	Phone #:	205388 5407 Other #: 8054340904	
	E-Mail:	JULIE MAESEGLE @ BMAIL COM	

	Repre	Attorney/Other Agent		
	Name			
Address:		ss:		
	Phone	#: Other #:		
	E-Ma	:		
	*This	section must be completed in order for a representative to represent the owner.		
II.	DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY:			
	LOCA	TION: 3172 Belwood Dr		
		Street Address		
		Subdivision name, Lot #, Block #, etc.		
III.	REAS	ONS FOR REQUEST (PLEASE FILL IN APPLICABLE STATEMENTS):		
	1.	A request to vary:		
		' variance to reduce the lot width to' in lieu of the required		
		·		
		square foot variance to reduce the lot area to square feet in lieu of the required square feet.		
		10 'front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to $10$ 'in lieu of the required $2$ '.		
		' front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to in lieu of the required'.		
		', front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to in lieu of the required		
	2.	A decision of the Zoning Official which the applicant believes to be contrary to the meaning of the Zoning Ordinance.		
	3.	An application to establish a use which must be approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment (See Section .).		
	4	A request for extension of non-conforming use (See Section).		
	5.	Variance for location of a fence.		
	6. 7.	Sign Code Variance (See Section).  Other - Explain (See Section).		
		Z0920-24//2800221006010.000 3172 Belwood Drive Side Setback for a pergola Julie Maeseele		

\*

## Z0920-24//2800221006010.000 3172 Belwood Drive Side Setback for a pergola

Julie Maeseele

BZA Application Revised April 1, 2019 Page 5

IV.	ZONING
1 7 .	LUITIU

Vestavia Hills Zoning for the subject property is R5

#### V. **HARDSHIP**

Describe those things which you feel justify the action requested. An Undue Hardship is required in order to seek a variance. List, when necessary, the specific sections of the City Code(s) which have a bearing on your request. (Use additional space on separate page if necessary).

See Attached

#### VI. PROJECT:

Describe the scope of the project and/or the reason for requesting this variance.

See Attached

#### **OWNER AFFIDAVIT:** VII.

I do hereby declare the above statements are true and that I, the owner, and/or my duly appointed representative will be at the scheduled hearing. understand that I am asking for a variance based on the Zoning Code only and not on any or all covenants that are on the subject property. \*Note, this application must be signed by the owner of the property before a notary. application shall be submitted, no copies shall be accepted\*

Owner Signature/Date	Representing Agent (if any)/date
Given under my hand and seal	
this 12 day of Hugurt, 2020.	
	97등 10 : 12 : 1 : 1 : 1 : 1 : 1 : 1 : 1 : 1 :
Notary Public	
	es 01/07/2022
	WA I NO
day of , 20 .	

Z0920-24//2800221006010.000 3172 Belwood Drive Side Setback for a pergola Julie Maeseele

### ATTACHMENT

### V. HARDSHIP

Describe those things which you feel justify the action requested. An Undue Hardship is required in order to seek a variance. List, when necessary, the specific sections of the City Code(s) which have a bearing on your request. (Use additional space on separate page if necessary).

The lot is currently zoned as R5 (Multi-family). R5 has a 20' side setback. Based on conversations with City Planner, Conrad Garrison, this zoning was likely an odd carryover from when these areas got annexed from Jefferson County to Cahaba Heights. The 20' setback was intended for a multi-family lot and is unduly restrictive on a single-family residence lot. We are requesting a 10' side yard setback which would be in line with R4's side yard setback. We understand that R4 makes up 70% of the homes in Cahaba Heights and therefore, this 10' yard set-back is most typical to single family homes in the area.

#### VI. PROJECT:

Describe the scope of the project and/or the reason for requesting this variance.

The project entails building an open-structured pergola in the eastern side yard. This side yard is buffered to the east with dense trees and foliage. The open structure will be wood-framed and wall-less, with a covered roof. The goal of the open structure is to have a covered area to tidily store children's bicycles and other vehicles. Raised bed planters are also planned for this area. Please refer to vicinity map and plan for location of the open structure.

## VICINITY MAP

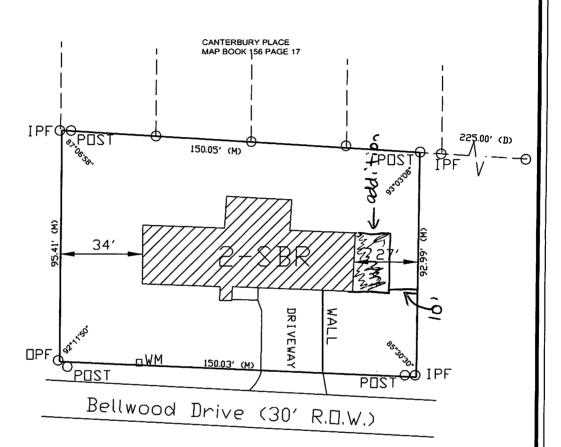


3172 Belwood Drive

Side Setback for a pergola Julie Maeseele



SCALE: 1"=40'



## STATE OF ALABAMA

SOURCE OF TITLE: Instrument

Commence at the NE corner of the SW 1/2 of the NE 1/2 of Section 22, Township 18 South, Range 2 West; thence run west along the North line of said SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 a distance of 225.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue west along said North line a distance of 150.00 feet; thence left an angle of 92\*06'30' and run south a distance of 111,58 feet; turn left an angle of 89°01"00" and run east a distance of 150.00 feet; turn left an angle of 96°59'00" and run north a distance of 108.68 to the point of beginning.

Except the south 15 feet which lies within the right of way of Bellwood Drive formerly called Willow Lane above being described property being in the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 22, Township 18 South, Senge 2 West.

DATE: 18 SEPTEMBER 2017

"I hereby (or state) that at parts of this survey and drawing have been completed in accordance with the current requirements of the Standards of Practice for Surveying in the State of Alabama to the best of my knowledge, information and belief."

-201707998<u>7\_(JEF</u>FERSON

Surveyor's Signature:

Sp2 tember Nabama License No: 31576

TYPE: AS-BUILT

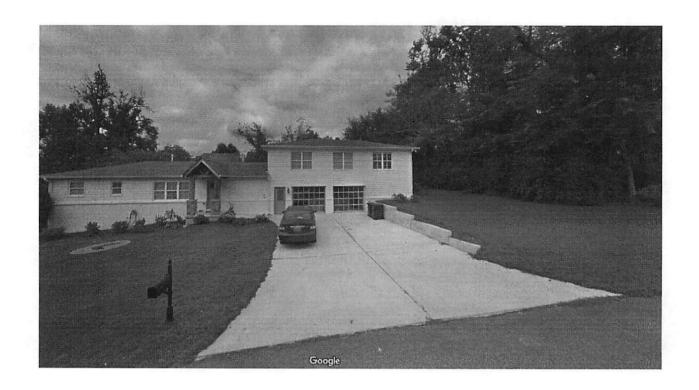
3172 Bellwood Drive Vestovia, AL 35243

AMOS F. REESE 3556 GREAT OAK LANE BIRMINGHAM, AL 35223 PHONE: 205.276.5596 CIR- CAPPED IRON ROD
IPS-1/2"REBAR W/ CAP
IPF-IRON PIN FOUND
CALC-CALCULATED
(PLAT)-PLAT DIMENSION
(M)-MEASURED DIMENSION
ROW-RIGHT OF WAY
MH-MANHOLE
PP-POWER POLITE
FC-FENCE CORNER
VG-VALLEY GUTTER
BM-BENCH MARK FOUND
WM-WATER METER
MB-MAILBOX

N-NORTH S-SOUTH W-WEST E-EAST MH - Manhole

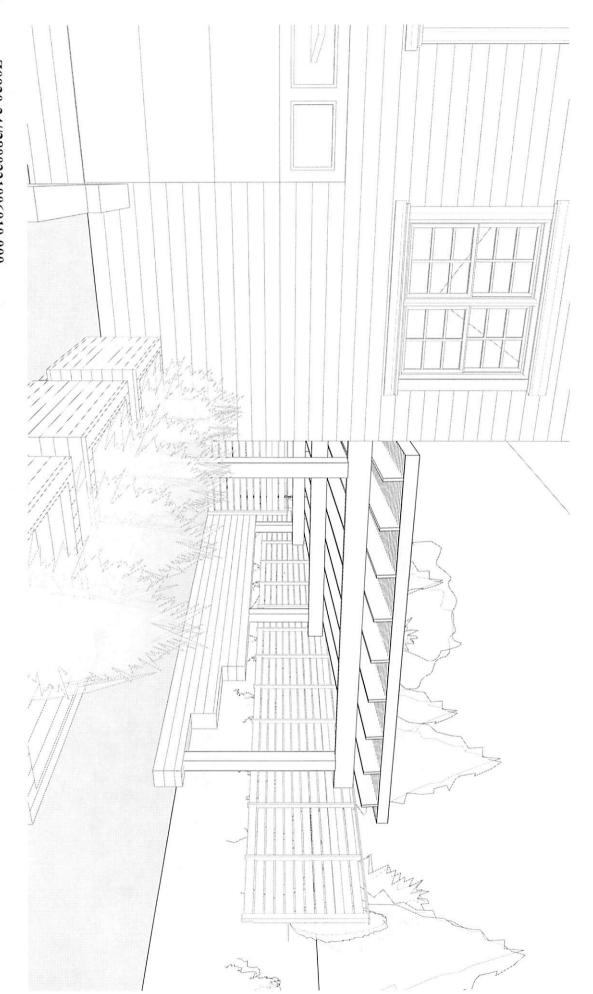


## **VICINITY MAP – HOUSE YARD PHOTOS**

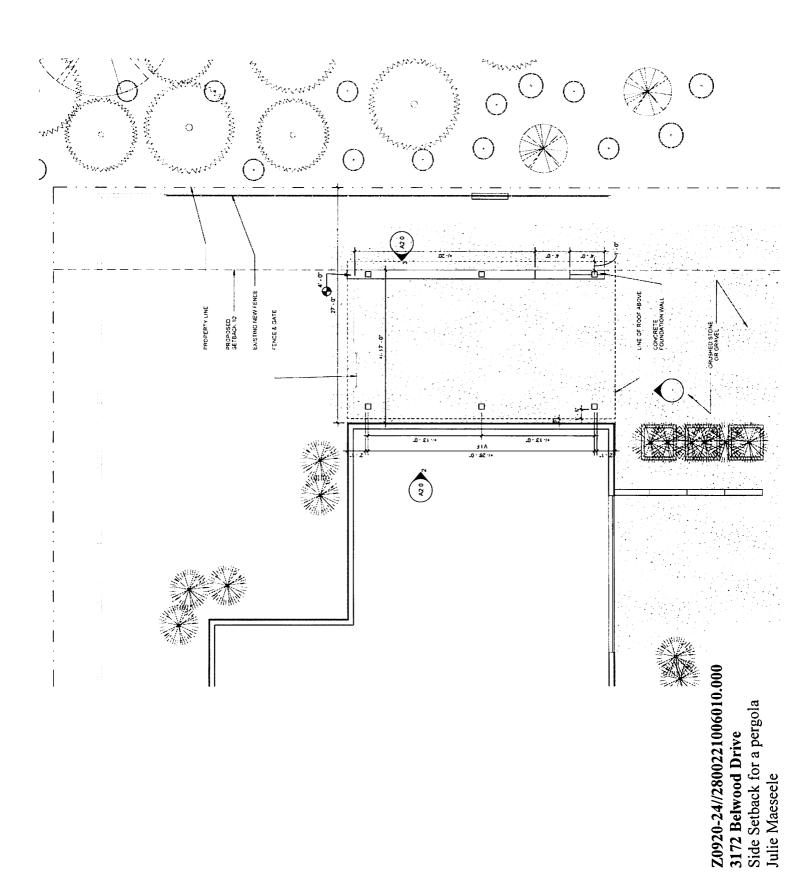


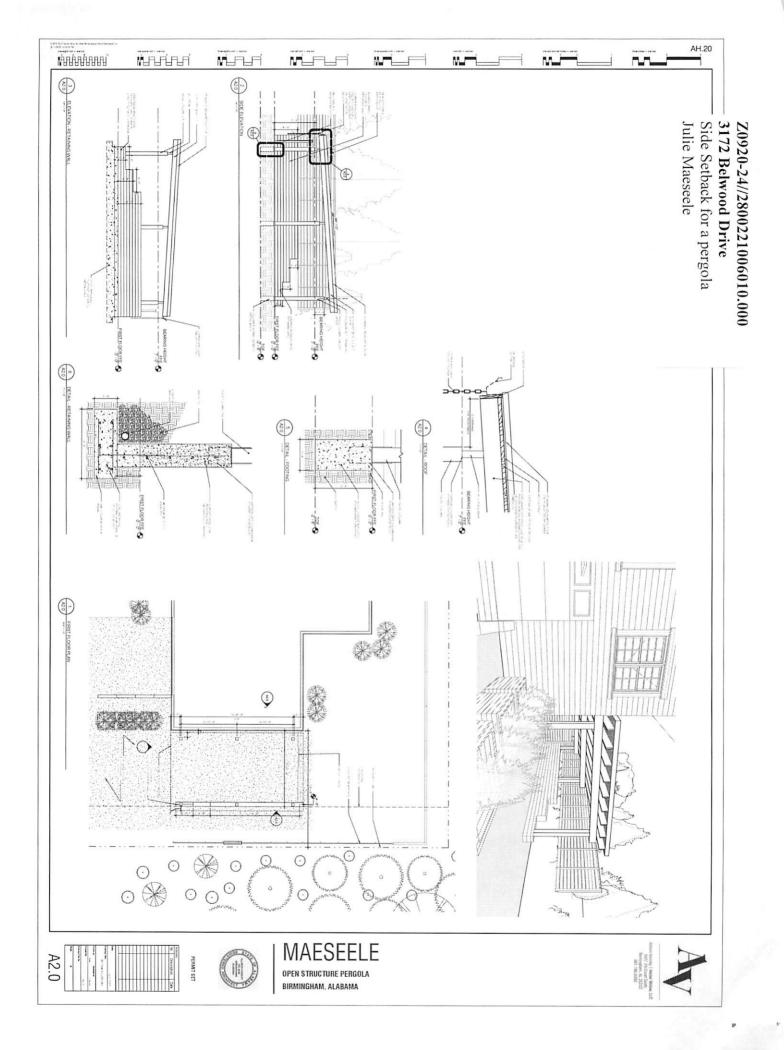


Z0920-24//2800221006010.000 3172 Belwood Drive Side Setback for a pergola Julie Maeseele



Z0920-24//2800221006010.000
3172 Belwood Drive
Side Setback for a pergola
Julie Maeseele





## CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS

## SYNOPSIS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING APPLICATION BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

Date: **SEPTEMBER 17, 2020** 

• <u>CASE</u>: BZA-0920-27

• **REQUESTED ACTION:** 5' side setback variance to reduce the setback to 12' in lieu of the required 17'.

ADDRESS/LOCATION: 2344 Morningstar Drive

• APPLICANT/OWNER: Bryan Wetta

• **REPRESENTING AGENT:** Tommy Coggin

• GENERAL DISCUSSION: Applicant is seeking a side setback variance to add a garage addition. The applicant contends that the lot topography in the rear and on the opposite side of the lot causes a hardship. They contend that this side of the yard is the only place to put the garage addition. Two neighbors of the applicant have expressed their opposition to me (see both letters attached). They contend that there is adequate room on the opposite side of the lot to build this within the setback, and that the topography doesn't prevent construction on the right side of the lot. The applicant's property is zoned Vestavia Hills R-1.

### • STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

**1. City Planner Review:** No problems noted.

**2. City Engineer Review:** No problems noted.

3. City Fire Marshal Review: No problems noted.

4. **Building Safety Review:** No problems noted.

## CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION

The owner of the property understands that the Board of Zoning Adjustment only has jurisdiction to grant variances from the Vestavia Hills Zoning Code in cases of undue hardship only. Variances cannot be considered or granted on any kind of private covenants as covenants are restrictions between property owners.

EXAMPLE: If you are asking for a variance from a building setback line and the building setback line is recorded on the plat and matches the Zoning Code, then the Board of Zoning Adjustment would only hear the case based on the Zoning Code requirements, not what is on the recorded plat. The recorded plat is a covenant between property owners of the subdivision. You must have signatures of every property owner on the recorded plat map to change the covenant portion of the setback. The letter of signatures approving the amendment of the covenants must be filed with the Office of the Probate Court. Again, the BZA can only grant a variance based on the Zoning Code and that is the only portion of the building setback changes that the BZA can vote upon. Once a waiver is filed with the Office of the Probate, please include a copy of the recorded amendment with the application to the Office of the City Clerk.

Please note: Only completed applications will be accepted by this office. The applicant is responsible for the Application Fee as well as all postage fees incurred by this request.

	NT INFORMATION:
Owner of Pr	operty (This Section Must Be Completed)
Name:	Bryan Wetta
Address:	2344 Morningstar Dr.
	Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
Phone #:	205-422-8658 Other #:
E-Mail:	bryan @ Wetta, com
Billing/Resp	onsible Party
Name:	Bryan Wetta
Address:	Sanc as above
Phone #:	Other #:
E-Mail:	Z0920-27//2800292001064.000
	2344 Morningstar Drive

2344 Morningstar Drive
Side Setback for an addition
Bryan Wetta

Name:	Tommy Coggin
Address:	2029 Kentucky Ave
	2029 Kentucky Ave Vestavia Hills, AL
Phone #:	
E-Mail:	TCogsin@harriscogsin.com
*This sec	ction must be completed in order for a representative to represent the owner.
DESCR	IPTION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY:
LOCAT	ON: 2344 Morningstar Dr. Street Address
	Subdivision name, Lot #, Block #, etc.
	NS FOR REQUEST (PLEASE FILL IN APPLICABLE STATEMENTS):
L	A request to vary:
_	variance to reduce the lot width to, in lieu of the required,
	square foot variance to reduce the lot area to square feet in lieu f the required square feet.
_	5 ' from side rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to 12 ' in lieu of the required 17 '.
	' front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to in lieu of the required'.
_	' front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to in lieu of the required'.
2.	A decision of the Zoning Official which the applicant believes to be contrary to the meaning of the Zoning Ordinance.
3.	An application to establish a use which must be approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment (See Section .).
4 ( 5. ( 6. ( 7. (	A request for extension of non-conforming use (See Section).  Variance for location of a fence.  Sign Code Variance (See Section).  Other - Explain (See Section).
	*This second

TXT	CONTINIC	٩
1 \/	ZONING	

Vestavia Hills Zoning for the subject property is \_\_\_\_\_\_

## V. HARDSHIP

Describe those things which you feel justify the action requested. An Undue Hardship is required in order to seek a variance. List, when necessary, the specific sections of the City Code(s) which have a bearing on your request. (Use additional space on separate page if necessary).

## VI. PROJECT:

Describe the scope of the project and/or the reason for requesting this variance. We will be adding a screen porch, storage room, and carport to The Existing house, We will also be replacing an existing deak to accommodate a spa tub. The reason for the variance is that our proposed carport will extend over the existing setback line.

## VII. OWNER AFFIDAVIT:

I do hereby declare the above statements are true and that I, the owner, and/or my duly appointed representative will be at the scheduled hearing. I, also, understand that I am asking for a variance based on the Zoning Code only and not on any or all covenants that are on the subject property. \*Note, this application must be signed by the owner of the property before a notary. The original application shall be submitted, no copies shall be accepted\*

	11 I 31 8-18-21
Owner Signature/Date	Representing Agent (if any)/date

Given under my hand and seal this 18th day of angus, 20 20.

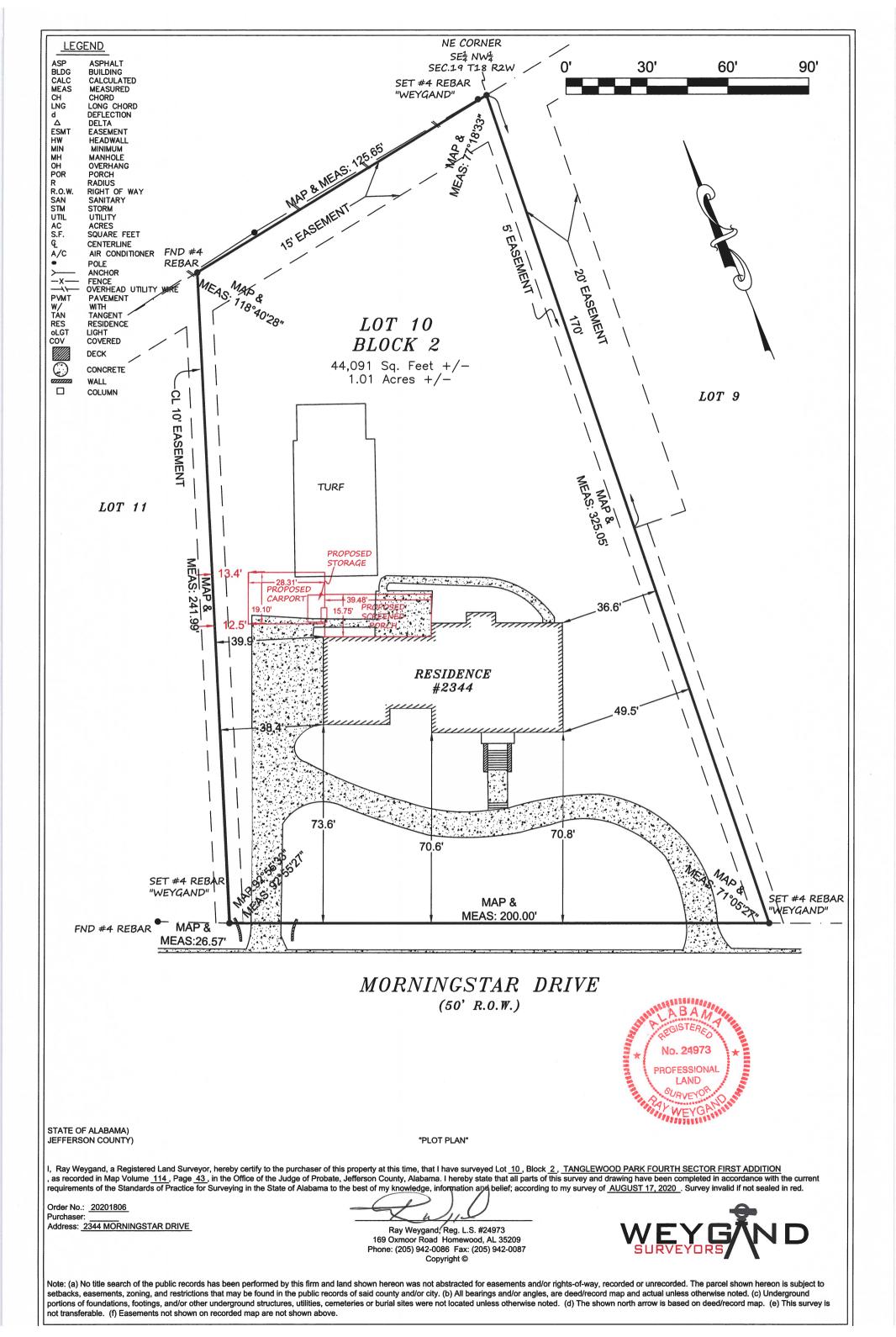
Notary Public
My commission expires

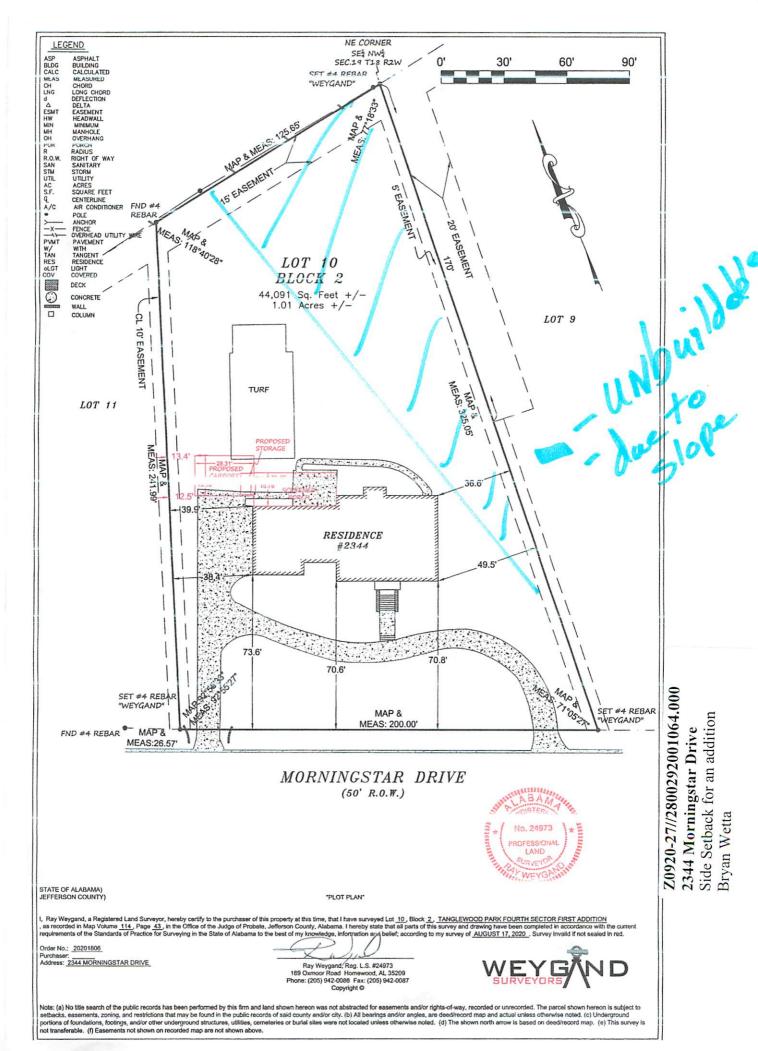
day of

, 20



Z0920-27//2800292001064.000 2344 Morningstar Drive Side Setback for an addition Bryan Wetta





From: Keith Gann

To: <u>bryan@wetta.com</u>; <u>tcoggin@harriscoggin.com</u>

Cc: <u>Jack Wakefield</u>

Subject: Variance request for 2344 Morningstar Dr. Vestavia Hills, 35216 - Construction of Proposed Carport and Storage

Room

**Date:** Saturday, August 29, 2020 12:49:07 PM

#### Dear Bryan and Mr. Coggin,

As you know, my wife Carol and I own the home at 2340 Mrorningstar Drive, which is next door to Bryan's home. I was recently advised by Mr. Coggin that a formal variance request had been filed for the construction of a carport and storage room along the property line between our residences. I contacted the City of Vestavia Hills and was provided with documentation related to the proposed variance. After review of the requested variance, I am writing to request that you reconsider and withdraw this proposed variance.

I am not objecting simply because you seek a variance. Rather, the proposed building would present an unappealing visual obstruction from our side of the proposed brick structure. Unless one observes the area of the proposed structure from our side, the sight line and the the visual impact may not be apparent ,especially from a simple view of the drawing of the proposal. But knowing you have been on our side of the property I am confident that you understand what I am saying. If you do not understand I will be happy to share photos which I believe will allow you to visualize the impact of this building upon our side.

This variance request is not supported by applicable Vestavia Hills City codes. There are not extraordinary and exceptional conditions which are peculare to the property which warrant such a variance. Compliance with the City's ordinances would not deprive this property of the rights enjoyed by other property owners. To the contrary, granting such a variance would confer special priviledges which are denied other owners. The requested variance is not even required to build a carport and storage area on the subject lot. I am confident that there are alternatives to the requested variance which would allow construction of this building without the need to violate zoning ordinances.

Again, I regret the need to write this email and certainly do not desire to be at odds with my neighbor. As I said before, this objection is not simply because a avriance has been requested. But in these circumstances, I hope you understand why I am opposed to this variance, including the reasons set forth above.

Sincerly, Keith Gann (205) 516-5528 From: Larry Dye
To: Jack Wakefield
Cc: Carol and Keith Gann

**Subject:** Request for side setback variance at 2344 Morningstar Dr.

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 4:30:19 PM

#### Dear Mr. Wakefield:

My name is Larry Dye and my wife, Harriette, and I have lived at 2345 Morningstar Dr. for 37 years. We are opposed to the request for a side setback variance at 2344 Morningstar Dr.

All the homes in the Tanglewood neighborhood are situated on large lots which afford each homeowner their own protected space. The side setback is crucial to maintaining that space and in preserving the integrity of the neighborhood. It is there for the protection of all the homeowners. The lot in question is about 1.2 acres in size, has a two car garage, a large paved area for parking, and a large circular driveway. There are other options for building a carport without violating the side setback.

We plan to attend the zoning committee meeting on 9/17/2020 to oppose this request but wanted you to have this letter prior to the meeting.

Sincerely, Larry Dye 2345 Morningstar Dr 205-531-1678

Sent from my iPhone

## CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS

## SYNOPSIS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING APPLICATION BEFORE THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

Date: **SEPTEMBER 17, 2020** 

• <u>CASE</u>: BZA-0920-28

• **REQUESTED ACTION:** 3' side setback variance to reduce the setback to 14' in lieu of the required 17'.

• ADDRESS/LOCATION: 2425 Vestavia Drive

• **APPLICANT/OWNER:** John & Laura Howland

• **REPRESENTING AGENT**: N/A

• **GENERAL DISCUSSION:** Applicants are seeking a side setback variance to add a garage addition. The applicants contend that the septic tank on the opposite side of the house and field lines in the rear causes the hardship. Because of this, the only buildable area on the lot is the left side. The garage would load from the back of the house. The applicant's property is zoned Vestavia Hills R-1.

### • STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

1. City Planner Review: No problems noted.

**2.** City Engineer Review: No problems noted.

3. City Fire Marshal Review: No problems noted.

4. **Building Safety Review:** No problems noted.

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John & Laura Howland

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## CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION

The owner of the property understands that the Board of Zoning Adjustment only has jurisdiction to grant variances from the Vestavia Hills Zoning Code in cases of undue hardship only. Variances cannot be considered or granted on any kind of private covenants as covenants are restrictions between property owners.

EXAMPLE: If you are asking for a variance from a building setback line and the building setback line is recorded on the plat and matches the Zoning Code, then the Board of Zoning Adjustment would only hear the case based on the Zoning Code requirements, not what is on the recorded plat. The recorded plat is a covenant between property owners of the subdivision. You must have signatures of every property owner on the recorded plat map to change the covenant portion of the setback. The letter of signatures approving the amendment of the covenants must be filed with the Office of the Probate Court. Again, the BZA can only grant a variance based on the Zoning Code and that is the only portion of the building setback changes that the BZA can vote upon. Once a waiver is filed with the Office of the Probate, please include a copy of the recorded amendment with the application to the Office of the City Clerk.

Please note: Only completed applications will be accepted by this office. The applicant is responsible for the Application Fee as well as all postage fees incurred by this request.

I. APPLICANT	INFORMATION:			
Owner of Prop	erty (This Section Must Be Completed)			
Name:	John and Laura Howland			
Address:	1625 Stonewall Drive			
	Vestavia, AL 35226			
Phone #:	(205)612-6622 Other #: (205)422-5250			
E-Mail:	1 Khowland 3 @ gmail. com			
Billing/Responsible Party				
Name:	(same as above)			
Address:				
Phone #:	Other #:			
E-Mail:				

## Z0920-28//2800202003010.000 2425 Vestavia Drive

Side Setback for a renovation
John & Laura Howland

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## Representing Attorney/Other Agent Name: Address: Other #: Phone #: E-Mail: \*This section must be completed in order for a representative to represent the owner. **DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY:** II. 2425 Vestavia Drive LOCATION: Street Address LOT 1, BLOCK 1, VESTAVIA HILLS Subdivision name, Lot #, Block #, etc. REASONS FOR REQUEST (PLEASE FILL IN APPLICABLE STATEMENTS): III. (X) A request to vary: variance to reduce the lot width to \_\_\_\_\_' in lieu of the required square foot variance to reduce the lot area to \_\_\_\_\_ square feet in lieu of the required square feet. 2'4", front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to 14'8" ' in lieu of the required 17' '. ' front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to 'in lieu of the required'. ' front/side/rear (circle one) setback variance to reduce the setback to 'in lieu of the required \_\_\_\_\_'. A decision of the Zoning Official which the applicant believes to be 2. contrary to the meaning of the Zoning Ordinance. An application to establish a use which must be approved by the Board of 3. Zoning Adjustment (See Section \_\_\_\_\_.). A request for extension of non-conforming use (See Section ). 4 Variance for location of a fence. 5. Sign Code Variance (See Section \_\_\_\_\_). Other - Explain (See Section \_\_\_\_\_). 6. 7.

## Z0920-28//2800202003010.000 2425 Vestavia Drive Side Setback for a renovation John & Laura Howland

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IV. ZONING

Vestavia Hills Zoning for the subject property is R-1

## V. HARDSHIP

Describe those things which you feel justify the action requested. An Undue Hardship is required in order to seek a variance. List, when necessary, the specific sections of the City Code(s) which have a bearing on your request. (Use additional space on separate page if necessary). Although an extensive remodel, we are trying to use the "as-built" existing foundation as much as possible. Unfortunately the as-built does not lie Straight on the lot. The slant Causes one corner to closer to the side set-back. It is this back corner we would like a variance to allow us to build a 1 story main level garage (attached) that is wide enough for 2 cars and makes it possible to use the existing foundation on one side.

VI. PROJECT:

Describe the scope of the project and/or the reason for requesting this variance.

We plan to create a beautiful home with an open floor plan designed for main level living. Soon to be retired, we know that a main level garage would be appreciated, so we have integrated it into the back of the house. We will be shortening that side (2014) of the existing house quite a bit. We prefer to have our vehicles out of sight, rather than parked in front obstructing the view. A detached garage would have been many impossible because of septic field lines, and of course more difficult for us to use.

## VII. OWNER AFFIDAVIT:

I do hereby declare the above statements are true and that I, the owner, and/or my duly appointed representative will be at the scheduled hearing. I, also, understand that I am asking for a variance based on the Zoning Code only and not on any or all covenants that are on the subject property. \*Note, this application must be signed by the owner of the property before a notary. The original application shall be submitted, no copies shall be accepted\*

John Howland 8-18-20 Owner Signature/Date	Representing Agent (if any)/date	
Given under my hand and seal this 18 <sup>th</sup> day of <i>August</i> , 20 <u>20</u> .		
Notary Public  My commission expires  12312024		
day of January , 2024.	2707 5	

