AA 825-05 Bannister, Jack VAR 0442

2/20/08 KS

90/6/1

re t

: :

MSA-S-1829-4750

· · · ·

Martin O'Malley Governor

Anthony G. Brown



Margaret G. McHale Chair

> Ren Serey Executive Director

#### STATE OF MARYLAND CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS

1804 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338 www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/

February 20, 2008

Ms. Pam Cotter Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning 2664 Riva Road, MS 6401 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Local Case 2008-0030-V Jack G. Bannister; 1034 Walnut Ave.

Dear Ms. Cotter:

Thank you for submitting the above referenced variance. The applicant is requesting a variance to allow a dwelling, deck, driveway and well with less setbacks and Buffer than required. The property is 7,500square feet in size, classified as a Limited Development Area and is currently undeveloped. This property was previously granted a variance in January 2006; however a building permit was not obtained in the required timeframe.

Provided this lot is properly grandfathered, this office does not oppose this request to establish a dwelling; however impacts must be minimized and the variance the minimum necessary. Based on the information provided I have the following comments:

- 1. Mitigation, at a ratio of 3:1 for disturbance within the Buffer should be required. Plantings consisting of native trees and shrubs should be accommodated on the site to the extent possible.
- 2. Stormwater from the dwelling should be directed a stable vegetated outfalls to provide water quality benefits on the site.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please include this letter in your file and submit is as part of the record for this variance. Also, please notify the Commission in writing of the decision made in this case.

Sincerely,

Schmidt

Kate Schmidt Natural Resources Planner AA825-05

TTY for the Deaf Annapolis: (410) 974-2609 D.C. Metro: (301) 586-0450

825-05

# IN THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

# CASE NUMBER 2008-0030-V

# JACK AND LINDA BANNISTER

EIGHTH ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

DATE HEARD: MARCH 13, 2008

ORDERED BY: STEPHEN M. LEGENDRE, ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER

PLANNER: ROBERT KONOWAL

W

DATE FILED: APRIL 3, 200	RECEIVE
	APR _ 9 2008
	ITICAL AREA COMMISSI peake & Atlantic Coastal

#### **PLEADINGS**

Jack and Linda Bannister, the applicants, seek a variance (2008-0030-V) to allow a dwelling with less setbacks and buffer than required on property located along the east side of Walnut Avenue, south of Cypress Avenue, North Beach.

# **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

The hearing notice was posted on the County's web site in accordance with the County Code. The file contains the certification of mailing to community associations and interested persons. Each person designated in the application as owning land that is located within 175 feet of the property was notified by mail, sent to the address furnished with the application. Bob Lee, the applicants' engineering consultant, testified that the property was posted for more than 14 days prior to the hearing. I find and conclude that there has been compliance with the notice requirements.

#### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This case concerns the same property the subject of a decision by this office in Case No. 2005-0442-V (February 22, 2006). The prior Order conditionally approved variances to allow a driveway and well with less buffer than required and a dwelling with less setbacks than required. Anne Arundel County Code, Article 18, Section 18-16-405(a) provides that a variance expires by operation of law unless the applicants obtain a building permit within 18 months. Thereafter,

the variance shall not expire so long as construction proceeds in accordance with the permit. The approval having expired, the applicants refiled the same request. Specifically, they request variances to disturb the 100-foot buffer to tidal wetlands under Section 18-13-104(a) for the well and driveway; and a variance of three feet to the 20-foot side street setback under Section 18-4-701 for the dwelling.

Robert Konowal, a planner with the Office of Planning and Zoning, testified that the reviewing agencies continue to offer no objection to the request, subject to the imposition of the same conditions imposed by the prior Order. Accordingly, he supported the request.

Mr. Lee testified that the approved variance expired pending the resolution of issues associated with the grading permit. The conditions of the prior Order would be satisfied. Mr. Bannister testified that the applicants (erroneously) thought that they needed the grading permit in hand before making application for the building permit.

The hearing was well attended by area residents, including Melinda Zimmerman, Bob Small and Theresa Haas. Among other concerns, the property holds standing water, the drainage ditches are inadequate to convey the water, the ditch on Cypress Avenue is not maintained, the conditions imposed on prior variances in the neighborhood have not been followed, the parking on Cypress Avenue is inadequate, and the habitat assessment fails to identify all of the trees at the property.

By way of further explanation, Mr. Lee testified that the variance plan is the same as the grading plan and incorporates erosion and sediment controls. A sump at the driveway will be filled; and water from the property will be directed to a ditch in Cypress Avenue, and then to a ditch in Walnut Avenue. The applicants will improve the ditch in Cypress Avenue.<sup>1</sup> Finally, the Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District has approved the sediment and erosion control plan.

This is a legal lot in close proximity to tidal wetlands and narrower than the minimum width for the underlying R5 district. The dwelling is set back on the lot to increase the separation to wetlands and this office previously reduced the width of the dwelling. While the development of the property may be a distinct challenge, the reviewing agencies have been consulted as stipulated in the conditions of the prior Order. In fact, but for the lengthy review process, this matter would not be before this office for the second time. Accordingly, I again find and conclude that the Critical Area and variance standards under Section 18-16-305 are satisfied. The approval incorporates the same conditions appended to the prior Order. These conditions continue to reflect the best effort of this office to address the concerns expressed at the hearing.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Bannister testified that the community owns Cypress Avenue and it is maintained by the abutting owners; while the Maryland State Highway Administration maintains the ditches in Walnut Avenue.

#### ORDER

PURSUANT to the application of Jack and Linda Bannister, petitioning for a variance to allow a dwelling with less setbacks and buffer than required, and

PURSUANT to the notice, posting of the property, and public hearing and in accordance with the provisions of law, it is this 2008, day of April, 2008,

ORDERED, by the Administrative Hearing Officer of Anne Arundel County, that the applicants are **granted** a variance to disturb the buffer to tidal wetlands for the well and driveway and a variance of three feet to the side street setback to allow a dwelling measuring 26 by 42 feet.

The foregoing approval is subject to the following conditions:

- 1. No further expansion of the dwelling is allowed and no accessory structures are allowed.
- 2. The conditions of the approval run with the land and shall be included in any contract of sale.
- 3. The applicants shall provide mitigation at a 3:1 ratio for disturbance in the buffer with plantings of native species onsite to the extent practicable.
- 4. Stormwater shall be directed to a stable, vegetative outfall to provide water quality benefits onsite.
- 5. The building permit is subject to the approval of the Department of Health.

Stephen M. LeGendre

Stephen M. LeGendre Administrative Hearing Officer

# NOTICE TO APPLICANT

Within thirty days from the date of this Decision, any person, firm, corporation, or governmental agency having an interest therein and aggrieved thereby may file a Notice of Appeal with the County Board of Appeals.

Further Section 18-16-405(a) provides that a variance expires by operation of law unless the applicant obtains a building permit within eighteen months. Thereafter, the variance shall not expire so long as construction proceeds in accordance with the permit.

If this case is not appealed, exhibits must be claimed within 60 days of the date of this Order, otherwise they will be discarded.

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Governor

Michael S. Steele Lt. Governor



Martin G. Madden Chairman

> Ren Serey Executive Director

#### STATE OF MARYLAND CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS

January 9, 2006

1804 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338 www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/

Ms. Ramona Plociennik Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning 2664 Riva Road, MS 6301 Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Variance 2005-0442-V Jack and Linda Bannister

Dear Ms. Plociennik:

Thank you for providing information on the above referenced variance. The applicant is requesting a variance to permit the construction of a single-family dwelling, deck, driveway, and well with less setbacks and Buffer than required. The property is currently designated as Limited Development Area (LDA) and is undeveloped with a few trees.

Provided that the property is properly grandfathered, this office does not oppose a variance to permit the construction of dwelling and additions; however, impacts must be minimized and the variance the minimum necessary. Based on the site plans, we have the following comments.

- The property is 0.172 acres (7,500 square feet) and the applicant proposes a total of 2,302 square feet of impervious surface coverage or 30.7%. 730 square feet of existing impervious surface exists on the site due to Walnut Avenue being located on the portion of the property. The amount of disturbance is 4,860 square feet with 2,400 square feet of vegetation to be cleared.
- 2) Mitigation, at a ratio of 3:1 for disturbance within the Buffer should be required. Plantings consisting of native trees and shrubs, should be accommodated on the site to the extent possible
- 3) Stormwater from the dwelling should be directed to stable vegetated outfalls to provide water quality benefits on the site.

₿

Ms. Ramona Plociennik Variance 2005-0442-V Jack and Linda Bannister January 9, 2006 Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please include this letter in your file and submit it as part of the record for this variance. Also, please notify the Commission in writing of the decision made in this case.

Sincerely,

Hony this

Gary Green Environmental Analyst cc: AA825-05

AA 825-05

# IN THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

## CASE NUMBER 2005-0442-V

# IN RE: JACK AND LINDA BANNISTER

EIGHTH ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

DATE HEARD: JANUARY 26, 2006

# ORDERED BY: STEPHEN M. LeGENDRE, ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER

# PLANNER: SUZANNE SCHAPPERT

RECEIVED	
FEB 2 3 2006 CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays	DATE FILED: FEBRUARY 22, 2006

#### PLEADINGS

Jack and Linda Bannister, the applicants, seek a variance (2005-0442-V) to permit a dwelling with less setbacks than required and a driveway and well with less buffer than required on property located along the east side of Walnut Avenue, south of Cypress Avenue, North Beach.

## **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

The hearing notice was posted on the County's web site in accordance with the County Code. The file contains the certification of mailing to community associations and interested persons. Each person designated in the application as owning land that is located within 175 feet of the property was notified by mail, sent to the address furnished with the application. Mr. Bannister testified that the property was posted for more than 14 days prior to the hearing. I find and conclude that the requirements of public notice have been satisfied.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The applicants own unimproved property with a street address of 1034 Walnut Avenue, in the subdivision of North Beach Park, North Beach. The property comprises 7,500 square feet and is zoned R-5 residential with a Chesapeake Bay Critical Area designation as Limited Development Area (LDA). The applicants seek to construct a single-family dwelling (28 by 42 feet). The water well is located 80 feet from an off-site tidal wetlands and the driveway is 85

feet from the tidal wetlands. The dwelling is located 15 feet from the right-of-way for Cypress Avenue, a side street.

Anne Arundel County Code, Article 18, Section 18-13-104(a) creates a 100-foot buffer from tidal wetlands. Section 18-4-701 requires corner lots in the R-5 district to maintain a side street setback in the amount of 20 feet. Accordingly, the proposal requires variances to disturb the buffer to tidal wetlands for the well and driveway and a variance of 5 feet to the side street setback for the dwelling.

Suzanne Schappert, a planner with the Office of Planning and Zoning, testified that the property is below the minimum width for the R-5 district. This is an older, cottage type community with other nonconforming structures. The dwelling is considered modest in size and consistent with the character of the neighborhood. The dwelling has been sited at the rear building restriction line to maximize the separation to the tidal wetlands. The witness summarized the agency comments. The Department of Health requested plan approval. The Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission requested mitigation and control of stormwater.<sup>1</sup> By way of conclusion, Ms. Schappert supported the application.

Bob Lee, the applicants' development consultant, testified that a sewer force main serves the property to the rear. A portion of the pavement for Walnut Avenue (730 square feet) is located within the boundaries of the property and is included in the impervious calculation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Commission also indicated that the proposal satisfies the impervious surfaces limitation.

Melinda Zimmerman summarized a written statement in opposition to the request signed by four area residents. In brief, the proposed two-story dwelling will block air, light and view to the surrounding homes, the lot is low-lying and floods and the applicants could have merged the property with their adjacent property to the south.

By way of rebuttal, Mr. Bannister testified that the property that floods is further to the north.

I visited the site and the neighborhood. This is a level lot planted in a lawn and a few trees. The elevation of the lot is a few feet lower than the abutting roads. Older, modest homes characterize the neighborhood. Cypress Avenue is a narrow, hard packed road a block long that provides access to a couple of homes that appear to be nonconforming to the side street setback. The homes to the south of the applicants' property face the wetlands across Walnut Avenue.

The standards for granting variances are contained in Section 18-16-305. Under subsection (a), a zoning variance may be granted only after determining either (1) unique physical conditions, peculiar to the lot, such that there is no reasonable possibility of developing the lot in strict conformance with the code; or (2) exceptional circumstances such that the grant of a variance is necessary to avoid an unnecessary hardship, and to enable the applicants to develop the lot. Under subsection (b), for a property in the Critical Area, a variance to the Critical Area program requirements may be granted only after determining that (1) due to unique physical conditions, peculiar to the lot, a strict implementation of the

program would result in an unwarranted hardship to the applicants; (2) a literal interpretation of the program will deprive the applicants of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in similar areas within the Critical Area; (3) the granting of the variance will not confer on the applicants any special privilege that would be denied by the program to other lands within the Critical Area; (4) the variance request is not based on circumstances resultant of actions by the applicants and does not arise from conditions relating to land use on neighboring property; and (5) the granting of the variance will not adversely affect water quality or adversely impact fish, wildlife or plant habitat within the Critical Area and will be in harmony with the general spirit and intent of the program. Under subsection (c), any variance must be the minimum necessary to afford relief; and its grant may not alter the essential character of the neighborhood, substantially impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property, or be detrimental to the public welfare.

Upon review of the facts and circumstances, I find and conclude that the applicants are entitled to modified, conditional relief from the code. Considering first the Critical Area variances, due to the proximity to the tidal wetlands, a strict application of the program would be an unwarranted hardship. To literally interpret the program would forestall development of the lot with a single-family dwelling, a right commonly enjoyed by other properties in similar areas of the Critical Area; conversely, the relief is not a special privilege that the program typically denies to other Critical Area lands. There is no indication that

the variances result from the actions of the applicant or land use on neighboring properties. Finally, with conditions, the variances will not adversely impact Critical Area assets and will harmonize with the general spirit and intent of the program.

Considering the zoning variance, this property satisfies the test of unique physical conditions, consisting of its narrow width, such that there is no reasonable possibility of development in strict conformance with the code.

As is often the case, the more difficult question is to determine the minimum relief. After due consideration, I see no opportunity to reduce the Critical Area variances. As noted, the dwelling has been set back on the lot to increase the distance to the tidal wetlands. The Critical Area variances are limited to the well and driveway. The project is within the allowances for impervious coverage. However, the side street setback variance can be slightly reduced to three feet by narrowing the width of the dwelling to 26 feet. So modified, the variances will not alter the character of the neighborhood, the use or development of adjacent property or cause detriment to the public welfare. These findings consider the surrounding development, including the dwellings accessed across Cypress Avenue and the dwellings to the south on Walnut Avenue. The approval is subject to the conditions in the Order.

In closing, I would be remiss if I failed to note that the reduction in the width of the dwelling is consistent with the decision in Case No. 2005-0463-V, In Re: Turn Key Enterprises, Inc. (February 22, 2006).

#### ORDER

PURSUANT to the application of Jack and Linda Bannister, petitioning for a variance to permit a dwelling with less setbacks than required and a driveway and well with less buffer than required; and

PURSUANT to the notice, posting of the property, and public hearing and in accordance with the provisions of law, it is this 23 day of February, 2006,

ORDERED, by the Administrative Hearing Officer of Anne Arundel County, that the applicants are **granted** a variances to disturb the buffer to tidal wetlands for the well and driveway and a **modified** variance of 3 feet to the side street setback to permit a dwelling measuring 26 by 42 feet. The approval is subject to the following conditions:

- The site plan is revised to reduce the width of the dwelling to 26 feet and to increase the side street setback to 17 feet.
- 2. No further expansion of the dwelling is allowed and no accessory structures are allowed.
- 3. The conditions of the approval run with the land and shall be included in any contract of sale.
- 4. The applicant shall provide mitigation at a 3:1 ratio for
  disturbance in the buffer with plantings of native species on site
  to the extent practicable.
- 5. Stormwater shall be directed to a stable, vegetated outfall to provide water quality benefits on-site.

The building permit is subject to the approval of the Health

Department.

6.

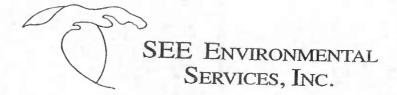
Stephen M. LeGendre Administrative Hearing Officer

# **NOTICE TO APPLICANT**

Within thirty days from the date of this Decision, any person, firm, corporation, or governmental agency having an interest therein and aggrieved thereby may file a Notice of Appeal with the County Board of Appeals.

Further Section 18-16-405(a) provides that a variance expires by operation of law unless the applicant obtains a building permit within eighteen months. Thereafter, the variance shall not expire so long as construction proceeds in accordance with the permit.

If this case is not appealed, exhibits must be claimed within 60 days of the date of this Order, otherwise that will be discarded.



# CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA REPORT & HABITAT ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Variance Application for 1034 Walnut Avenue, North Beach Park Subdivision, Anne Arundel County

Tax Map 78, Grid 1, Parcel 15

Developer/Applicant: Jack Bannister, 5901 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746

Critical Area Designation: LDA

January, 2008

#### I. Introduction

This Critical Area Report Update has been prepared as part of the requirements of County Zoning Code for variances required to construct a single-family home on this small lot in the North Beach Subdivision on the southern tip of Anne Arundel County. The County Administrative Hearing Officer granted conditioned variances for the lot in February 22, 2006, in Case 2005-0442-V. This report is a supplement to the report prepared at that time (dated November, 2005) which is attached to this cover sheet. A follow up site visit was conducted on January 26, 2008, by Eric See of See Environmental Services, Inc., and found that no changes to site conditions had occurred since the 2005 Critical Area study and report. The enclosed reduced-scale copy of the Wilkerson & Associates, Inc. site plan incorates the conditions made by the AHO in February, 2006.

The requested variances are necessitated because the lot is only 50 feet wide, is a corner lot (along the right of way of Cypress Lane), the pavement of Walnut Avenue (MD Route 260) is on the front portion of the lot, and the 100-foot Buffer from tidal waters (on the far side of Walnut Avenue) covers a third of the lot not already impacted by the location of the road pavement on the front of the lot. (The reason Walnut Avenue is on the lot is because for a 30- to 4 block section, very wet tidal wetlands encroach on the right-of-way, and in the past the road was placed on dry ground without respect to the platted lots.)

By pushing the proposed house more towards the rear of the lot, the only proposed impacts in the 100foot Buffer are a portion of the driveway and the well. The requested 3-foot variance to the required 20foot side yard setback also helps push the house away from the Buffer. A grinder pump to connect the new house to the force main has been added per a condition of the 2006 variance decision.

Development of the lot can be done without significant impacts to water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. On-site reforestation is proposed.

RECEIVED

The Woodbridge Center 2444 Solomons Island Road, Suite 217 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Tel: (410) 266-3828 Fax: (410) 974-6008 JAN 3 1 2008

CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION

# SEE ENVIRONMENTAL

# SERVICES, INC.

# CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA REPORT/HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Variance for 1034 Walnut Avenue, North Beach Park, Subdivision, Anne Arundel County

Applicant: Jack Bannister, 5901 Allentown Road, #104, Camp Springs, MD 20746

Tax Map 80, Grid 22 Parcel 8, Block 4, Lot 8 Zoning: R5 Critical Area Designation: LDA

November, 2005

#### **Purpose of Requested Variance:**

The applicant owns a vacant, non-waterfront, 50-foot wide by 150-foot deep lot, located at the intersection of Walnut Avenue (MD Route 26 1) and Cypress Avenue in the North Beach Park subdivision at the southern tip of Anne Arundel County. The entire lot lies within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, with a Limited Development land use category. (See Enclosed copy of Critical Area map #35.)

Because the lot is a corner lot, a 20-foot sideyard setback is required. However, in order to construct a house of practical width (28-foot), a 5-yard variance to the sideyard setback is being requested. In addition, there is a large area of tidal marsh on the west side of Walnut Avenue, and the 100-foot Critical Area Buffer, extended across the highway, extends nearly to the middle of the lot. Therefore, a variance to develop in the 100-foot Buffer is also required, and this Critical Area report has been prepared because the lot is within the Critical Area.

This report is based on a site plan by Wilkerson & Associates, Inc. (reduced-scale photocopy enclosed) and a site visit conducted on September 3, 2005, by Eric E. See of See Environmental Services, Inc.

#### **Critical Area Narrative/Site Conditions:**

The subject property is nearly flat and is basically a mowed lawn with scattered shade trees. It slopes very gently o the north, draining into a ditch beside Cypress Avenue, and thence by ditches into tidal marsh on the west side of Walnut Avenue. The lot is unusual in that a portion of the paved roadway of Walnut Avenue is located on the lot itself (730 sq. ft.). The road was built in the distant past to curve east around the edge of the very wet tidal marsh, and crosses a number of lots to the north, without respect to the platted right-of-way.

The existing tree cover is approximately 3,000 square feet of "developed woodlands" in the form of scattered shade trees over lawn. The largest tree is a 35-inch southern red oak.

The Woodbridge Center 2444 Solomons Island Road, Suite 217 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Tel: (410) 266-3828 Fax: (410) 974-6008 Soils mapped on the site in the 2003 County Soil Survey are Deale-Shadyoak-Urban Land Complex" (DeA) map unit. No nontidal wetlands are located on the lot, although the roadside ditch along Cypress Avenue on the side of the lot likely holds standing water after every significant rain event or extreme high tide. It has been maintained by County staff. As noted above, tidal marsh is located to the west, with the upper limit of tidal wetlands within 40 feet of the northwest corner of the lot (which is actually on the far side of the pavement of Walnut Avenue. (See enclosed copy of County 1" = 200' zoning/topo map with location of wetlands boundary annotated.)

#### **Proposed Impacts and Mitigation:**

Approximately 2,400 square feet (0.05 acre) of tree cover/woodlands would be cleared, which actually would be in the form of a few canopy trees and some smaller ones. Reforestation would be accomplished by a fee-in-lieu into the County reforestation fund or purchasing reforestation credits are a privately-run reforestation bank.

Because of the low elevation/high ground water that will not allow infiltration, stormwater management is proposed by planting credits per current County standards, in addition to the reforestation requirements described above.

With sediment controls during construction, stormwater management per County standards, and the, current safe conveyance of runoff through roadside ditches prior to discharge into a large body of tidal marsh, no significant adverse impacts to water quality are anticipated.

#### **References:**

Anne Arundel County. Critical Area Map #35/County 1" = 200' scale zoning map.

MD Department of Environment, 1972 State Tidal Wetlands Boundary Map AA-120.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2003 Soil Survey for Anne Arundel County, Maryland (from FTOG website).

Wilkerson & Associates, Inc. 2005 Site Plans.

SEE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

The Woodbridge Center • 2444 Solomons Island Road, Suite 217 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • Tel: (410) 266-3828 • Fax: (410) 974-6008

# WILKERSON & ASSOCIATES, INC. ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS P.O. BOX 17 DUNKIRK, MARYLAND 20754 (301) 855-8272/(410) 257-3332 FAX: (301) 855-8380 boblee@wilkersonnassociates.com

January 28, 2008

Mr. John Fury, Zoning Analyst Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning, Zoning Division 2664 Riva Road, Suite 390 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Explanation – Variance Application 1034 Walnut Avenue, North Beach, Md. 20714 North Beach Park, Lot 8, Block 4 Mr. Jack and Mrs. Linda Bannister Tax Map 84, Block 3, Part of Parcel 1 (Lot 8, Block 4) Tax Account Number: 8-579-90025368

Dear John,

Thank you for meeting with me on January 18, 2008 for a pre-file meeting on the variance application for the referenced property.

As you now know, Mr. and Mrs. Bannister were granted a variance to permit a dwelling with less setback and buffer than required by Order dated February 22, 2006 in 2005-0442-V. Among other things, the order provided that the variance would expire by operation of law unless a building permit was obtained within 18 months of the date of the order, or by August 22, 2007. As you know, a building permit was not obtained in the time frame allotted and the purpose of the present application is to apply for a new variance for the identical relief as was previously granted.

As I explained at our meeting, we have been processing an application for a grading permit (G02011215) for this property since January 2005. The Soil Conservation District approved the plans in October 2006, however, the permit was not amenable to issuance until the utility agreement was executed which occurred last July.

# RECEIVED

JAN 3 1 2008

CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION

#### page two

January 28, 2008 (Mr. John Fury – 1034 Walnut Avenue)

As we believed we had resolved all withholding comments with the various reviewers (SCD had signed the plans), including the utility agreement execution, we thought that the grading permit was ready to issue once the owner posted the bond. Typically, we process the grading permit application and the owner posts the bond and picks up the permit. When the owner went to pick up the permit and post the bond, however, he was advised that there were still outstanding withholding comments and the permit could not issue. Shortly thereafter, in December of last year, I went to meet with the Permit Application Center to determine what these issues were. I discovered that the two withholding concerns had in fact been addressed but the approval had not been formally entered in the database. I also discovered that an agreement that was required to be recorded had not been recorded. I have recorded the agreement and have met with the reviewers and these issues have now been resolved.

The reason I explain the complications associated with this permit is that the owner, incorrectly, believed that he could not make application for a building permit until the issues associated with the grading permit had been resolved and the grading permit issued. By the time the grading permit issues were in fact resolved, the variance had expired. The obvious problem now is that, in order for the grading permit to issue, we are required to apply for a new variance.

Clearly, in addition to the significant amount of time it took to obtain approval of this grading permit, there was also some confusion on our and the owner's part regarding the status of the application and what needed to be done to bring the matter to conclusion.

The fact that the status of approvals for the permit was not correctly reflected on the PAC web site exacerbated this confusion. Again, the owner was of the impression that issuance of the grading permit was a condition precedant to the issuance of a building permit. The owner is ready to submit an application for a building permit but I understand from several meetings with Mr. Leschinskie at the Permit Center, most recently on Jan. 18, 2008, that an application for a building permit may not be made until the present variance is granted.

Finally, I have advised that the relief requested in the present application is identical to the relief previously granted. The plans are the same with the exception that they now reflect the 17 foot setback from Cypress Avenue which was a condition of the previous order, a grinder pump has been added in the rear of the property as required by the County and the plan reflects required plantings which were also required by the County.

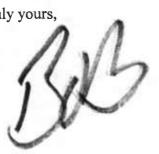
I regret any inconvenience that the confusion associated with this matter has caused. I respectfully submit that standards for granting the relief requested are addressed now just

page three January 28, 2008 (Mr. John Fury – 1034 Walnut Avenue)

as they were at the time of the prior grant and I respectfully suggest that the variance requested at this time should be granted for those reasons.

Thank you kindly for your consideration and please give me a call if you have any questions.

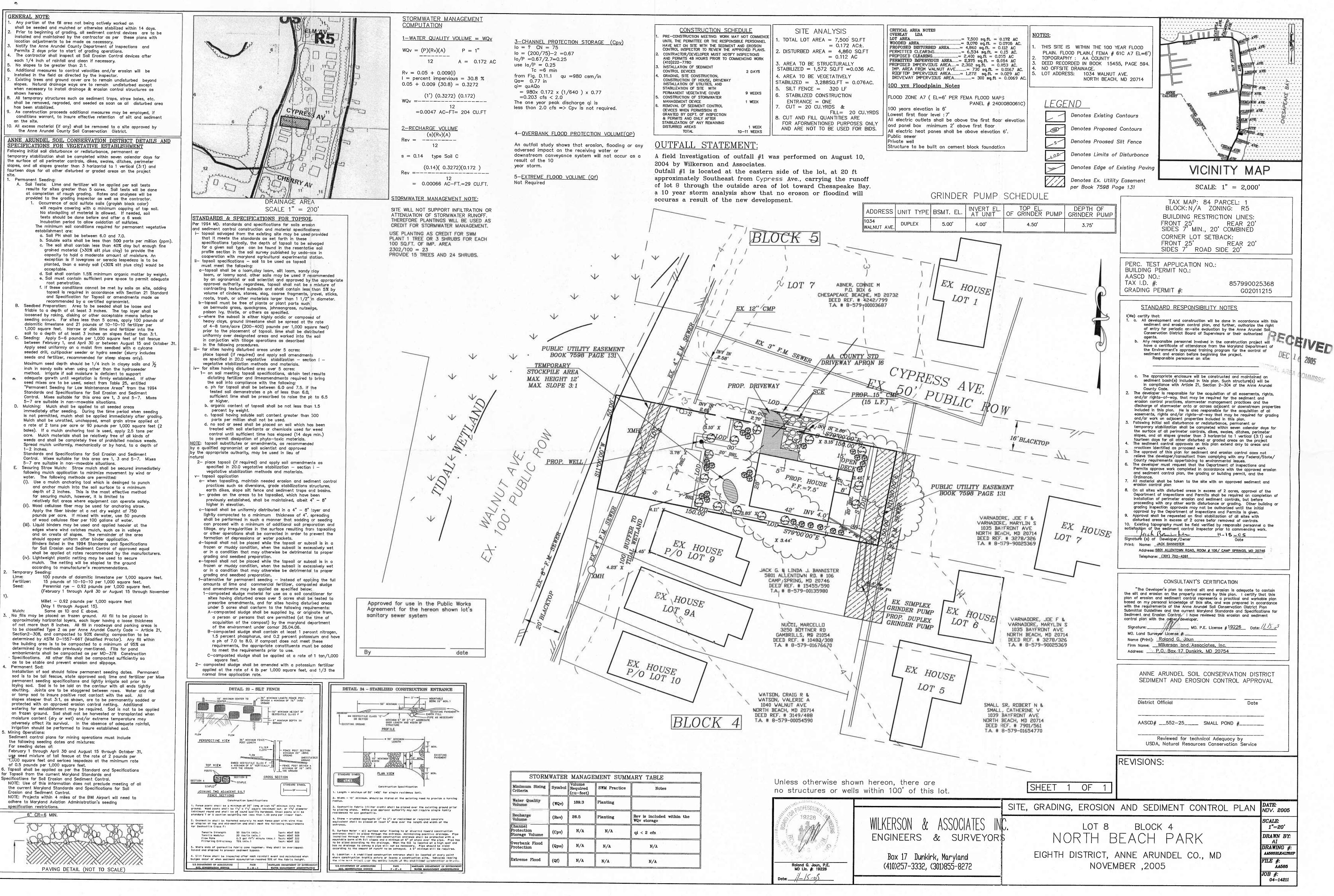
Very truly yours,



Bob Lee Land Development Administrator

BL/tmods

- cc: Jack Bannister Roland Joun
- f: nbp.8.4.varltexpl012808



Minimum Sizing Criteria	Symbol	Valume Required (cu-feet)	SWM Practice	Nates
Wainy Quality Volume	(₩Qv)	189.3	Planting	
Recharge Volume	(Rev)	26.5	Planting	Rev is included within the WQv storage
Channel Protection Storage Volume	(Cpv)	N/A	N/A	qi < 2 cfs
Overbank Flood Protection	(Qp10)	N/A	N/A	N/A.
Extreme Fload	(Qf)	N/A	N/A	N/A