

April 14, 2026

TOWN OF BRISTOL
COMMUNITY DEV.

2026 APR 15 AM 9: 58

Dear Members of the Zoning Committee,

I am writing in support of Dr. Colleen Cavanaugh's request for a variance regarding the existing fence at her property, 26 Brookwood Rd., Bristol, RI.

As a nearby neighbor, I am familiar with her property and have benefited from the care she puts into her garden. The fence in question serves a clear and practical purpose: it protects her garden from deer, which are common in our neighborhood and have a well-known tendency to damage or destroy plantings.

As I understand it, the fence was originally constructed only after receiving approval from the Committee, and was completed in good faith reliance on that decision. The project involved a significant investment, made with the reasonable expectation that all applicable requirements had been satisfied.

While I respect the Committee's role in revisiting concerns brought forward, I believe this situation presents a compelling case for granting the requested variance. The need for the variance arises not from any intentional disregard of zoning regulations, but from a change in interpretation after approval had already been given and acted upon.

In my view, the fence is appropriate in both scale and placement, and it does not negatively impact the surrounding neighborhood. Requiring its alteration or removal would impose an undue hardship on a homeowner who made every effort to follow the proper process.

More broadly, situations like this highlight the importance of clear and consistent application of zoning decisions, so that residents can proceed with confidence when they seek and receive approval.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to grant the requested variance and allow the fence to remain as constructed.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



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