

P.O. Box 1390 • 10 North Public Square • Cartersville, Georgia 30120 Telephone: 770-387-5600 • Fax: 770-387-5605 • www.cityofcartersville.org

#### **MEMO**

To: BZA

From: Randy Mannino/David Hardegree/ Zack Arnold

CC: Keith Lovell
Date: November 1, 2023
Re: File # V23-25

Summary: To reduce the minimum landscape requirements on proposed restaurant site.

#### **Section 1: Project Summary**

Variance application by R.H. Ledbetter Properties, LLC, for property located on E. Main St. (Parcel ID: C005-0004-002), zoned G-C, General Commercial. Said property contains approximately 1.93 +/- acres. The setbacks are 20ft front & rear, and 10ft sides.

This site is currently undeveloped. The owner is intending to build a restaurant on the property.

The applicant is requesting the following variances. See site plan and justification letter for details of these requests:

- 1. To eliminate the 5' landscape strip between the proposed restaurants' vehicular use area and the adjacent Starbucks property. (Sec. 17-66)
- 2. To eliminate the tree planting requirement within 5' landscape boarder between the proposed restaurant and the Kia dealership property. (Sec. 17-66)
- 3. To eliminate the tree planting requirement within the 10' landscape boarder along the E. Main St. right-of-way. (Sec. 17-66)

#### **Section 2. Department Comments**

Electric Department: Takes no exception.

**Fibercom:** Takes no exception.

Fire Department: Takes no exception.

Gas Department: Takes no exception.

Public Works Department: Takes no exception.

Water Department: Takes no exception.

#### Section 3. Public Comments Received by Staff

None as of 11/1/2023

#### **Section 4. Variance Justification:**

Please review the following findings, as stated in the Zoning Ordinance, that are to be utilized in determining justification for approval or denial of variance request(s).

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#### Sec. 17-66. Landscaping requirements for parking lots and vehicular use areas.

Interior landscaping. Interior landscaping of parking lots shall contain planter islands located at both ends of each single and double parking row and one (1) planter island every twelve (12) parking spaces in a row. Planter islands shall be a minimum of one hundred sixty (160) square feet in area for single parking rows and three hundred twenty (320) square feet in area for double parking rows. Planter islands in single parking rows shall contain at least one (1) small tree from the list of trees found in section 17-71 of this ordinance. Planter islands in double parking rows shall contain at least two (2) small trees from the list of trees found in section 17-72 of this article.

Non-impervious landscaping strips, a minimum of three (3) feet in width, planted with shrubs, shall be provided for every third interior double parking row in parking lots having one hundred fifty (150) or more parking spaces. As an example, non-impervious landscaping strips would be provided for the first, fourth, and seventh double parking row in a parking lot having eight (8) double parking rows. In such cases, a layout of the parking lot, including the locations, species, and sizes of the shrubs, shall be submitted for approval to the director of planning and development. Shrubs shall be a minimum of one (1) foot in height at the time of planting.

All trees shall have a minimum height when planted of eight (8) feet. No more than thirty-five (35) percent of one (1) species of tree shall be used for a new development. The remaining area in the planter islands shall be landscaped with appropriate materials. Single parking rows abutting a building perimeter border are excluded from this section.

Building perimeter landscaping. The perimeter of each building on the site shall have a landscape area or sidewalk not less than five (5) feet in width. If the area is planted, it shall be landscaped with appropriate materials. In no case shall asphalt paving be contiguous to the base of a building.

Border landscaping. Each parking lot or vehicular use area must have a planted landscape strip not less than ten (10) feet in width parallel to right-of-way lines, and planted borders not less than five (5) feet in width along any side of a parking lot or vehicular use area that abuts adjoining property that is not a public right-of-way.

Large trees from the list of trees found in section 17-72 of this ordinance shall be planted in any ten (10) feet in width landscape strip parallel to right-of-way lines. No more than thirty-five (35) percent of one (1) species of tree shall be used for the overall site.

Small trees from the list of trees found in section 17-71 of this ordinance shall be planted in any five (5) feet in width landscape strip along any side of a parking lot or vehicular use area that abuts adjoining property that is not a public right-of-way. No more than thirty-five (35) percent of one (1) species of tree shall be used for the overall site.

Planted landscape strips parallel to right-of-ways shall have at least one (1) tree for each thirty (30) lineal feet of right-of-way frontage, with a minimum of two (2) trees required. All trees shall have a minimum height when planted of eight (8) feet. The remaining area of the landscape strip shall be planted with appropriate materials.

Planted borders along any side of a parking lot or vehicular use area that abuts adjoining property that is not a public right-of-way shall have at least one (1) tree having a minimum height when planted of eight (8) feet, for each seventy-five (75) lineal feet or fraction thereof of border area. The remaining area of the border shall be planted with appropriate materials.

*Accessways*. Landscape border areas and landscape strips may be interrupted to provide vehicular and/or pedestrian ingress and egress.

*Encroachment.* Landscaped areas shall require protection from vehicular encroachment. Wheel stops or curbing shall be located so as to prevent damage by automobiles to any trees, fences, shrubs or landscaping.

This section may be modified by the board of zoning appeals when strict application will seriously limit the function of an area.

(Ord. No. 43-09, § 1, 10-1-09)

#### Sec. 21.3. - Powers and duties of the board of zoning appeals.

The board of zoning appeals shall have the following powers and duties:

21.3.1. Appeals. To hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by the zoning administrator in the enforcement of this chapter. Appeals to the board of appeals may be taken by any person aggrieved or by any officer, department, board, or agency of the City of Cartersville affected by any decision of the zoning administrator. Such appeal shall be taken within thirty (30) days of said decision by filing with the zoning administrator a written notice of appeal specifying the grounds thereof. Decisions on appeals shall be issued in writing within ten (10) business days of the hearing on the appeal.

- 21.3.2. Continuance of a nonconforming use. The board of zoning appeals may allow a nonconforming use to be reestablished after discontinuance for twelve (12) consecutive months. The procedure for the request shall be the same as if it was a variance. If it is deemed by the board of zoning appeals that one (1) or more of the following apply, the board may grant said request.
  - A. The design, construction, and character of the building is not suitable for uses permitted in the district in which the nonconforming use is situated; and
  - B. Undue hardships to the property owner would result in not allowing the building to be reopened for a nonconforming use; and
  - C. Adjacent property would not be unduly damaged by such use of the building; and
  - D. The use is to be identical or similar to the prior nonconforming use of the building.
- 21.3.3. *Variances*. The board of appeals has the power to hear requests for variances from the provisions of this chapter. Variance may be granted only if the board finds all of the following to exist:
  - A. That one (1) of the following is true, through no action or fault of the property owner or predecessor:
    - 1. The property is exceptionally narrow, shallow or unusually shaped;
    - 2. The property contains exceptional topographic conditions;
    - 3. The property contains other extraordinary or exceptional conditions; or
    - 4. There are existing other extraordinary or exceptional circumstances; and
  - B. That the strict application of the requirements of this chapter would result in practical difficulties to, or undue hardship upon, the owner of this property; and
  - C. That the requested variance relief may be granted without substantially impairing the intent and purpose of this chapter.

Variance decisions shall be issued in writing within ten (10) business days of the hearing.

- 21.3.4. *Conditions*. In granting a variance, the board of appeals may attach such conditions regarding the location, character and other features of the proposed building, structure, property, development standards or use as it may deem advisable so that the purpose of this chapter will be served, public safety and welfare secured and substantial justice done.
- 21.3.5. Limitations on variances; improper variance requests. Variances cannot be given to totally remove a requirement or to exempt a property or applicant entirely from a requirement. If a variance is being sought that is, in the judgment of the zoning administrator, a request that would constitute a text amendment, then the application shall not be accepted. The applicant shall instead be directed to file for a text amendment. Furthermore, the board of appeals shall not be authorized to grant a density variance or a use variance to permit a use in a district in which the use is prohibited. A variance application shall not be accepted if the variance seeks something that cannot be varied. A variance application shall not be accepted if the variance is contradictory to the ordinance.

21.3.6. Self-inflicted hardship. The board shall not grant variances when the hardship was created by the property owner or his predecessor, and shall not grant hardship variances based on shape or topography for lots of record not existing prior to November 7, 1996. Configuring a subdivision to create lots that are difficult to build is an example of a hardship created by the property owner or predecessor, that does not justify a variance.

Sections 21.3.7, *Place of worship, and 21.3.8, Group homes, omitted. Not applicable.* 

#### STANDARDS FOR EXERCISE OF ZONING POWERS.

- The existing land uses and zoning of nearby property.
   The surrounding properties are zoned for commercial and used for that purpose.
- 2. The suitability of the subject property for the zoned purposes.

  The property is suitable for the zoned purposes.
- 3. The relative gain to the public, as compared to the hardship imposed upon the individual property owner.
  - The public gain would be minimal. A variance approval would allow the property owner to construct the restaurant without damaging the integrity of the retaining wall or extensively modifying the existing business traffic flow (Starbucks).
- 4. Whether the subject property has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned.

  The property has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned.
- 5. Whether the zoning proposal will permit a use that is suitable in view of the use and development of adjacent and nearby property.
  - The proposed variance would have no effect on the use of the subject or adjacent properties.
- 6. Whether the proposed zoning will adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property.
  - The proposed variance will not have an adverse effect on the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property. Enforcing the ordinance could have an adverse effect on the existing Starbucks.
- 7. Whether the zoning proposal is in conformity with the current future development plan and community agenda of the comprehensive land use plan as currently adopted or amended in the future.
  - The proposed variance has no impact on the Future Development Plan or Comprehensive Plan.

- 8. Whether the zoning proposal will result in a use which will or could adversely affect the environment, including but not limited to drainage, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, endangered wildlife habitats, soil erosion and sedimentation, floodplain, air quality, and water quality and quantity.

  No adverse environmental impact is anticipated.
- Whether the zoning proposal will result in a use which will or could cause an excessive or burdensome use of existing streets, transportation facilities, utilities, or schools.
   The proposed variance will not increase the burden to streets, transportation, or utilities.
- 10. Whether there are other existing or changing conditions affecting the use and development of the property which give supporting grounds for either approval or disapproval of the zoning proposal.
  - The existing Starbuck traffic flow and integrity of the retaining walls should be protected. Failure of the walls due to tree root growth would create a public safety issue.

## 



Alternate ID 32854

Commercial

16.01

Class

Acreage

Owner Address CONNECTOR TWO LTD P O BOX 1708

CARTERSVILLE, GA 30120

Parcel ID C005-0004-002 Sec/Twp/Rng n/a

Property Address MAIN STREET MARKET PLACE

District

LL 407 LD 4 DRIVEWAY TO HONDA **Brief Tax Description** 

(Note: Not to be used on legal documents)

Date created: 11/3/2023 Last Data Uploaded: 11/2/2023 9:18:45 PM



# City of Cartersville Application for Variance

**Board of Zoning Appeals** 

Hearing Date:	11-9-23 5:	:30pm		<b>Application Numl</b>	ber: <u>V23-25</u>		
				Date Received: _	9-7-23		
Applicant Joshua Cox /	Foresite Group LLC		Office Phone	678-521-0257			
Address 3740 Davinci (	Court, Suite 100		Mobile/ Other	Phone			
City Peachtree Corners	State	GA Zip	30092 Emai	jcox@fg-inc.net			
Representative's printed	name (if other than app	licant)	A PRINTER	(Rep)	0		
Representative Signature	!	Applic	ant Signaturo	And Sizes: 6-	======================================		
Signed, sealed and delive	red in presence of:		My W. So. 30	Hhlission expires: 6 -	30-2027		
* Titleholder By: Kena I	operties, INC R. Butter, its Manager printed name)	Phone	770-386-3	954			
Address P.O. Box 1708	, Cartersville, GA, 301	20 Email	kenarbutle	er@gmail.com			
Signature Ling	e, Butle/	3	HILLEY	E KEININ			
Signed, sealed, delivered	in presence of:		T. S. W.	esion ommission expires:			
May E. K.	eith_		BARTO	OBUC BENE			
			11, CO	TIMEY WILL			
Present Zoning District _	G-C		7/1/11	Parcel ID No			
Acreage 1.93 L	and Lot(s)407	Dis	strict(s) 04	Section(s)	3		
Location of Property: Undeveloped Parcel West of 605 E Main St, Cartersville, GA 30121							
(street address, nearest intersections, etc.)  Zoning Section(s) for which a variance is being requested: Sec. 17-66, Sec. 4-16.B. 2&3, & 20-25.3							
Border Landscaping: seeking variances on landscaping strips between adjacent properties and adjacent to right-of-way							
(Additional detail can be provided on Justifation Letter)							

<sup>\*</sup> Attach additional notarized signatures as needed on separate application pages.

### **CONDITIONS VERIFICATION**

e(s), Section(s)	and Subsectio	on(s) of the Zonir	ng Ordinance	for which a variance is			
IV	Section	17-66	Subsection_	border landscaping			
IV	Section	17-66	Subsection_	plantings in 5' landscape strip			
IV	Section	17-66	Subsection_	plantings in 10' landscape strip			
The Board of Zoning Appeals was established to hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by the zoning administrator in the enforcement of the zoning ordinance. The Board has the power to hear requests for variances from the provisions of the zoning ordinance, Article XXI APPEALS. See Section 21.3 for additional information pertaining to conditions.							
				application, please check all of			
The property is exceptionally narrow, shallow or unusually shaped,							
The property contains exceptional topographic conditions,							
The property contains other extraordinary or exceptional conditions; and							
There are other existing extraordinary or exceptional circumstances; and							
The strict application of the requirements of this ordinance would result in practical difficulties to, or undue hardship upon, the owner of this property;							
The requested variance relief may be granted without substantially impairing the intent and purpose of this ordinance							
omments by App	plicant:	See justific	ation lette	er for detail.			
	IV	Section  Section  Section  Section  Coning Appeals was established uirement, decision, or determininance. The Board has the powerice, Article XXI APPEALS. See Section  The Board of Zoning Appeal conditions that apply to you the property is exceptionally. The property contains except  The property contains other extended the strict application of the rest to, or undue hardship upon, the requested variance relief purpose of this ordinance.	Section 17-66    V	Section 17-66 Subsection Vector Section 17-66 Subsection Subsection 17-66			



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09/06/2023

City of Cartersville Planning Commission 10 N. Public Square Cartersville, GA 30120

RE: Variance Justification Letter

Proposed Restaurant Located on Parcel # C005-0004-002

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of our client R.H. Ledbetter Properties, LLC, please accept this as the Justification Letter to compliment the Application for Variance. There are three (3) variances being sought, described below, and followed by the applicant's justifications.

#### 1. Variance to Required 5' Landscaping Strips Between Properties

Regulation: Chapter 17 Article IV "Minimum Landscaping Requirements", Section 17-66 Landscaping Requirements for Parking Lots and Vehicular Use Areas: Border Landscaping: Each parking lot or vehicular use area must have planted border not less than five (5) feet in width along any side of a parking lot or vehicular use area that abuts adjoining property that is not a public right-of-way.

Requested Variance: Applicant seeks variance to allow the absence of 5' wide border landscaping strips between the proposed restaurant's parking lot/vehicular use area and the adjoining Starbucks property.

<u>Justification</u>: The 1.93-acre subject tract shares two (2) common property lines with the adjacent 0.61-acre Starbucks parcel. One common property line runs along the centerline of the existing one-way driveway on the southwestern side of the Starbucks parcel, while the other common property line runs along the centerline of the existing two-way driveway on the southeastern side of the Starbucks parcel. It appears the Starbucks building was constructed in 2007, though we are not sure when the parcel was subdivided. It's possible that the landscape strip wasn't a requirement at the time of the permitting/platting, or perhaps it was waived. In any event, the new restaurant development does not propose to alter these existing paved drives, and as such we cannot provide a landscape strip along these property lines.

#### 2. Variance to Planting Requirements Along 5' Landscaping Strip Between Properties

Regulation: Chapter 17 Article IV "Minimum Landscaping Requirements", Section 17-66 Landscaping Requirements for Parking Lots and Vehicular Use Areas: Border Landscaping: Each parking lot or vehicular use area must have planted border not less than five (5) feet in width along any side of a parking lot or vehicular use area that abuts adjoining property that is not a public right-of-way. Regulation further requires "small trees from the list of trees found in section 17-71 of this ordinance shall be planted in any five (5) feet in width landscape strip along any site of a parking lot or vehicular use area that abuts adjoining property that is not a public right-of-way."

<u>Requested Variance:</u> Applicant seeks variance to dismiss the planting requirement of small trees within the 5' wide border landscaping strip between the proposed restaurant and the adjoining Kia dealership property to the southwest.

<u>Justification:</u> There is an existing segmental block retaining wall that runs parallel to the common property line between the subject tract and the adjoining tract (Kia dealership) to the southwest of the property. The bottom of the wall is only a few feet off the existing property line, and as such there is no room for a 5' landscaped strip at the bottom of the wall. At the top of the wall, there is existing, compacted fill material on top of geotextile reinforcement, which provides structural stability to the wall. A planted buffer consisting of small trees could compromise the structural integrity of the compacted fill and geogrid, both during installation of the trees and through the eventual tree root penetration. It should be noted that the area behind the wall (well more than 5' in width) will be landscaped with grass and other small shrubbery or planting material as deemed appropriate by a professional landscape architect.

#### 3. Variance to Planting Requirements along 10' Landscape Strip Along the Right-Of-Way Frontage

Regulation: Chapter 17 Article IV "Minimum Landscaping Requirements", Section 17-66 Landscaping Requirements for Parking Lots and Vehicular Use Areas: Border Landscaping: "Each parking lot or vehicular use area must have a planted landscape strip not less than ten (10) feet in width parallel to right-of-way lines." Regulation further requires "Large trees from the list of trees found in section 17-72 of this ordinance shall be planted in any ten (10) feet in width landscape strip parallel to right-of-way lines".

<u>Requested Variance:</u> Applicant seeks variance to dismiss the planting requirement of large trees within the 10' wide landscaping strip along the right-of-way of East Main Street (SR 113).

<u>Justification:</u> There is an existing segmental block retaining wall that runs parallel to the the East Main Street right-of-way line. The bottom of the wall is only a few feet off the existing right-of-way line, and as such there is no room for a 10' landscaped strip at the bottom of the wall. At the top of the wall, there is existing, compacted fill material on top of geotextile reinforcement, which provides structural stability to the wall. A planted buffer consisting of large trees could compromise the structural integrity of the compacted fill and geogrid, both during installation of the trees and through the eventual tree root penetration. It should be noted that the area behind the wall (well more than 10' in width) will be landscaped with grass and other small shrubbery or planting material as deemed appropriate by a professional landscape architect. It should also be noted that there are existing, planted trees within the right-of-way along East Main Street (between the retaining wall and the existing sidewalk).

Please don't hesitate to contact us should any additional information be provided for these variance requests.

Thank you,

Joshua Cox, P.E. Foresite Group, LLC













