

Variance Worksheet – Finding of Facts

Variances. Except as provided herein to hear and decide applications for variance from the terms of this chapter, because of exceptional narrowness, shallowness or shape of a specific piece of property which on June 16, 1981, was a lot of record or where, **because of exceptional topographic conditions or other extraordinary or exceptional situation or condition of a piece of property**, the strict application of this chapter would result in peculiar and exceptional practical difficulties to exception or undue hardship upon the owner of such property, provided that such relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good and without substantially impairing the intent and purpose of this chapter. In granting a variance the board may attach thereto such conditions regarding the location, character and other features of the proposed building, structure or use as it may deem advisable in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter. Before any variance is granted, the board must find all of the following, which shall be recorded, along with any imposed conditions or restrictions, in minutes and records and issued in written form to the applicant to constitute proof of the variance:

a. The specific conditions in detail which are unique to the applicant's land. Such hardship is not shared generally by other properties in the same zoning district and the same vicinity.

This is a corner lot with a steep existing topographical slope. The garage is best suited where proposed due to grade, and the pool will need to encroach partially into the side yard setback due to the odd lot shape.

b. The manner in which the strict application of this chapter would deprive the applicant of a reasonable use of the land.

The applicant would be deprived of being able to build a 3rd garage bay on level with the main floor, and would also not be able to have a pool if strict application were applied.

c. The unique conditions and circumstances are not the result of actions of the applicant taken subsequent to the adoption or amendment of this chapter.

Correct

d. Reasons that the variance will preserve, not harm, the public safety and welfare and will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood.

Visibility around this curve will remain preserved and will maintain the character of the neighborhood by allowing this applicant to build a 3 car garage and pool which is common for the neighborhood and surrounding area.

Further, a variance may be granted only if the Board finds that such relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good and without substantially impairing the intent and purpose of the zoning plan and this chapter. Variances shall not be granted permitting an increase in floor area or density above the maximum permitted by the zoning district; allowing a use other than those specifically authorized by this chapter in the applicable zoning district; or from the denial of a zoning permit when such denial is due to the fact that such lot has no frontage on a public street unless such lot was a lot of record on June 16, 1981.

Hardship - There is no definition of a "hardship". Some guidelines, based on legal precedent, for applying the concept of unnecessary hardship are:

1. The premises of cannot be used in a manner permitted by the Zoning Ordinance unless the variance is granted.
2. A strict application of the terms of the Zoning Ordinance precludes its use for any purpose to which the land is reasonably adopted.
3. Inability to put the property to its most profitable use DOES NOT constitute a "hardship".
4. Mere inconvenience to the applicant is not sufficient grounds for determining a "hardship". In granting a variance the BZA may not make any decision that is contrary to the purpose and intent of the Zoning Ordinance.