FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPLICANT: Kevin & Jessica Brilhart ASSESSMENT DISTRICT: 3rd

CASE NUMBER: 2023-0142-V COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT: 3rd

HEARING DATE: October 12, 2023 **PREPARED BY**: Jennifer Lechner

Planner

REQUEST

The applicants are requesting a variance to allow a dwelling addition (deck) with less setbacks than required and that does not comply with the designated location of a principal structure on a waterfront lot on property located at 7750 Rockanna Road in Pasadena.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SITE

The subject site consists of 13,517 square feet of land and is located with 75 feet of frontage on the southern side of Rockanna Road, approximately 270 feet southeast of Thomas Road. It is identified as Lot 8 of Parcel 188 in Block 5 on Tax Map 17 in the subdivision of Rockanna. The property is zoned R2 - Residential District, since the adoption of the zoning maps for the Third Council District on January 29, 2012.

This waterfront site is located within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, is designated as LDA - Limited Development Area, and is mapped as a BMA - Buffer Modification Area. The subject property is currently developed with a two-story single-family detached dwelling, decks, shed, a pier, and other associated facilities.

APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

The applicants are proposing to remove the existing waterfront deck (approximately 11' x 15', rectangular) from one end of the dwelling and construct a new waterfront deck (overall 50' x 20', irregular) on the opposite end of the house to avoid the septic system.

REQUESTED VARIANCES

§ 18-2-301(f) of the County Code requires that a single-family detached dwelling on a lot that does not meet the area or width requirements of this article may be expanded if the expansion is set back at least 25 feet from the front and rear lot lines. The proposed deck would be located as close as 27 feet from the front lot line, therefore a setback variance is not required.

§ 18-2-402(1) of the Code allows for the Office of Planning and Zoning to designate the location

of a principal structure on a waterfront lot based on an approximate average of the location of principal structures on abutting lots intended to keep structures relatively in line with one another. The proposed deck will not be relatively in line with principal structures on abutting lots, necessitating a variance.

FINDINGS

The subject property is irregular in shape and is undersized at 13,517 square feet in area and 75 feet wide, with regard to the 20,000 square foot minimum area required for new lots not served by public sewer, and to the minimum width of 80 feet, in an R2 District. A review of the County 2023 aerial photography shows an eclectic mix of dwellings and lots in this waterfront community. The dwelling on the subject property is located closer to the water than the other dwellings along the shoreline. A main-level deck appears to have been constructed sometime between 2008 and 2009. A lower level deck appears to have been constructed sometime between 2018 and 2020. The variance request is unclear as to whether the proposed deck will be multi-level, or located only on one level.

Variance case 2004-0424-V had been granted to allow a new single family dwelling with less setbacks and buffer than required, and with disturbance to steep slopes. That decision, and its associated site plan, did not include a deck. A building permit for the existing decks was not found in the County records. Building permit B02417561 to construct a deck with steps to grade was submitted on May 2, 2023, prior to submission of the variance application. Variance approval must be obtained prior to the building permit being issued.

The applicants' letter states that the deck was not correctly documented when it was originally built, had been built near a septic tank, and, as advised by several decking companies, was not safe or constructed properly. The applicants provided photo documentation of the unsafe conditions. During the course of designing a replacement deck, the applicants were informed that the deck could not be replaced in the same location due to the existing septic system. The applicants propose to use thinner aluminum railing instead of the traditional railings to reduce any impacts to views. In addition, the applicants note that while the view of the neighbor to the east will be impacted slightly by the proposed location, the view of the neighbor to the west will be improved. With regards to the neighbor to the east, the applicants also noted that that neighbor has a privacy screen on their deck and there is an existing shrub line which partially obscures their view. The applicant believes the proposed deck location and configuration will allow them to use the existing rear door to access the new deck, and will have little to no impact on the surroundings.

The **Health Department** has reviewed the on-site sewage disposal and well water supply systems on 9/19/23 for the above referenced property. The Health Department has determined that the proposed request does not adversely affect the on-site sewage disposal and well water supply systems. The Health Department has no objection to the above referenced request.

The **Critical Area Team** comments that the existing deck needs to be repaired/replaced but there is no justification provided for an expansion. The existing home is substantially further forward than the adjacent homes and additional encroachment is not warranted.

For the granting of a zoning variance, a determination must be made as to whether, because of certain unique physical conditions peculiar to or inherent in the particular lot or because of exceptional circumstances other than financial considerations, strict implementation of the Code would result in practical difficulties or an unnecessary hardship. The need sufficient to justify a variance must be substantial and urgent and not merely for the convenience of the applicant.

In this particular case, the property is substandard, in that the area of the lot does not meet the minimum requirements for the R2 District, and the existing dwelling sits closer to the shoreline than its adjacent neighbors. As a result, a variance would be required for any new development proposed along the waterfront side of the dwelling. However, although the existing deck is unsafe and should be removed, the applicants would still have full use of their property as there is access to the waterfront yard via the lower level door.

The applicants are proposing a deck which is much larger than the existing deck. As a result, the proposed deck and steps to grade project closer to the shoreline than the existing deck and may impair the view of the neighbor to the east. Shifting the deck due to the location of the septic system is justified, however, justification as to why the deck needs to project closer to the shoreline, on a house that is already closer than its neighbors, was not provided. Nor have the applicants provided justification as to why the proposed deck and steps must span past the eastern edge of the house. Reducing the depth and width of the proposed deck would reduce any view obstruction to the neighbor to the east.

Because the proposed deck and steps are larger than necessary, the variance may alter the essential character of the neighborhood, and may impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent properties.

With mitigation, the requested variance would not be contrary to acceptable clearing and replanting practices required for development in the Critical Area. In addition, the requested variance would not be detrimental to the public welfare.

While decks are common additions to single family dwellings, including along the waterfront side of waterfront dwellings, the proposed deck is simply too large given the context, and should be reduced. Because there is opportunity to redesign the proposed deck and steps to grade, and because there is not sufficient justification, the variance request cannot be considered the minimum necessary to afford relief.

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the standards set forth in § 18-16-305 of the Code under which a variance may be granted, this Office recommends <u>denial</u> of a zoning variance to § 18-2-402(1) to allow a dwelling addition that does not comply with the designated location of a principal structure.

DISCLAIMER: This recommendation does not constitute a building permit. In order for the applicant(s) to construct the structure(s) as proposed, the applicant(s) shall apply for and obtain the necessary building permits and obtain any other approvals required to perform the work described herein. This includes but is not limited to verifying the legal status of the lot, resolving adequacy of public facilities, and demonstrating compliance with environmental site design criteria.

Letter of Explanation: Overview

1) Requirements for variance

Email from Jennifer Lechner on June 15, 2023:

"Several of the Review Sections are requiring revisions to B02417561. The Zoning / Environmental Section made these comments pertaining to a variance:

Your property is Zoned R2 which has a front setback requirement of 30 feet. Your propose construction of the deck will not meet the 30-foot front setback from the mean high water line and the proposed deck will not be relatively in line with the existing houses on the adjacent waterfront properties per Section 18-2-402 of the Zoning Code. Therefore, it will be required that you obtain a variance to the front setback requirement and the relatively in line provision of the code. For variance information, please contact Zoning Administration at 410-222-7437 for the process and procedures and for any questions you may have concerning the setback requirements."

2) Owner Comments

This letter of explanation is intended to address the 30 foot front setback and that the proposed deck will not be relatively in line with the existing houses on the adjacent waterfront properties per Section 18-2-402 of the Zoning Code.

Letter of Explanation

In March 2020, Kevin and Jessica Brilhart purchased the property at 7750 Rockanna Road. During the purchase, Kevin and Jessica were provided a plot of the land including a 16 x 16 deck as well as a lower deck, set of stairs, and a walkway to the waterfront. During their time living at the residence, Kevin and Jessica were made aware of two things. First, the deck was not correctly documented when it was originally built. Second, the deck was built near a septic tank that was not in accordance with code. Furthermore, Jessica and Kevin had several decking and other companies come out to review the deck. These companies commented on the lack of safety with the railings and stated that the deck was not built properly as seen by the photos below.



In late 2022, Kevin and Jessica contacted Maryland Decking to look at a new design for their deck. The initial plan was to reconstruct a deck in the same location as the existing deck. Unfortunately, after multiple designs and conversations with the deck builders and Anne Arundel County, Kevin and Jessica were informed they were unable to build a deck in that area due to the septic tank location.

Therefore, Kevin and Jessica worked with Maryland Decking to come up with a design that still enabled the family to use the rear door and deck and met the county codes and recommendations. This task ended up being very challenging given the layout of the yard and the septic tank. After three designs and numerous modifications to the final design, the third permit was submitted with Anne Arundel County input included. In addition to the county input, we worked hard with our contractor to ensure our deck had little to no impact on the surroundings. For example, the contractor recommended we use the county approved thinner aluminum railing instead of the traditional railings to reduce any impacts to views.

Variance Justification

Based on our understanding, this variance request is for two reasons. First, it is to request a variance to the 30 feet from property line requirement. The deck meets the 30 feet requirement in the majority of deck locations, but there is a part of the deck that is as the deck is currently 27 feet from the property line as the property line is not parallel to the home. This deck has gone through multiple designs based on distance from septic requirements and other critical areas. The 27 feet from property line should not impact neighbors' line of sight, surroundings, or the critical area so we kindly request this approval.

Secondly, there is a need for a variance as our house is not relatively in line with the existing houses so we will need to evaluate any impact on our neighbors. Based on this, we reviewed all surrounding neighbors and provided pictures of potential impacts. Fortunately, our assessment was that one neighbor may have a slight impact and another neighbor will have a slight benefit due to the existing deck being removed. Both impacts are very minor or negligible. We determined no other neighbors are impacted and have attached a google earth images below. The houses to the right in our picture, besides our direct neighbor, have no waterfront view. The houses to the left in the picture should have no water

view impacted as the deck is moving further from them. If there are any impacts, they would be positive. The houses across the street from the front of our house, are not impacted due to the viewpoints and our house being between them and the deck.

This picture shows our house and key neighbors. The deck location is shown in red. The existing deck being replaced is slightly to the left of the red area in a brown color.



This wider view shows we are at the corner of a small creek, so no other houses are impacted.



Close view of privacy screen and deck. This picture is taken from the angle where the deck will be built,

but zoomed in on see the privacy screen.



Wider view from where the deck will be. The screen and the shrubs block the majority of the view already.



As mentioned in the picture, the final reduction to any impact is that there are shrubs on the property line that were planted by a previous owner. These Viburnum shrubs are approximately 10 feet tall and will grow up to 30 feet tall at 2 feet per year. Based on the expected growth of the shrubs as well as the current height, the deck should not negatively impact the neighbor's views.

As you can see from the pictures, our current neighbor, to the left of our house in picture above, may have a slightly better view of the water based on this change, but the change is extremely minor. On the other side, there's a neighbor's house that may have a very small impact from the proposed deck. Fortunately, there are three factors that significantly limit any potential impact. First, the house and deck are positioned to face the woods rather than the water. Therefore, most of their property cannot see the water or would look past our house and proposed deck. I have highlighted the maximum waterfront view in blue in the image below. The maximum impact would be the shift from blue to black.



Second, when the neighbors updated their current deck, they installed a privacy screen on their deck between their deck and our house that significantly reduces all waterfront views towards our house. Therefore, the view between the blue and black is already severely impacted by their privacy screen. Therefore, building this deck would not negatively impact any of the views from their current deck or house.

In conclusion, we believe that the deck will be a safer structure for our family, meet the county requirement, and positively impact the community around us.

Thanks,

Kevin and Jessica Brilhart

Owner of 7750 Rockanna Road, Pasadena, MD 21122

CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS 1804 WEST STREET, SUITE 100 ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

PROJECT NOTIFICATION APPLICATION

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Jurisdiction:					Date: 06/30/2023
Tax Map # 0017	Parcel # 0188	Block # 0005	Lot #	Section	FOR RESUBMITTAL ONLY Corrections Redesign No Change Non-Critical Area
Tax ID: 30	000-0190-1560				*Complete Only Page 1 General Project Information
Project Name	e (site name, su		e, or other) ckanna Rd		3rilhart
	adena				Zip 21122
Local case nu	ımber				
Applicant:	Last name	Brilhart			First name Kevin
Company	Marylan	d Decking			
Application '	Type (check a	ll that apply):			
Building Perr Buffer Manag Conditional U Consistency I Disturbance > Grading Perr	gement Plan Jse Report > 5,000 sq ft			Variance Rezoning Site Plan Special Exce Subdivision Other	eption
Local Jurisd	iction Contac	t Information	•		
Last name				First name	
Phone #			Respo	nse from Con	nmission Required By
Fax #				Hearing dat	e

SPECIFIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Yes	10x16 with	steps to gr	ade		
Yes					
Yes					
	es		Yes Growth Allocation Buffer Exemption Area		
l that appl	y)				
Commercial Consistency Report Industrial Institutional Mixed Use Other			Recreational Redevelopment Residential Shore Erosion Control Water-Dependent Facility		
Enter acres	or square	feet)		Acres	Sq Ft
Acres		Sq Ft	Total Disturbed Area	710108	bqit
			# of Lots Created		
	Acres	Sq Ft		Acres	Sq Ft
/Trees			Existing Lot Coverage		
Trees			New Lot Coverage		
d/Trees			Removed Lot Coverage		
			Total Lot Coverage		
			· ·		
IATION (A	C ~ E4
	Acres	Sq Ft	D. CC. E Cl	Acres	Sq Ft
		B D D G G	Structure cc. Structure Addition arn eck welling welling Addition arage		
	Cnter acres Acres /Trees Trees d/Trees	Acres Acres /Trees Trees d/Trees	Acres Sq Ft Acres Sq Ft	Recreational Redevelopment Residential Shore Erosion Control Water-Dependent Faci Conter acres or square feet) Acres	Recreational Redevelopment Residential Shore Erosion Control Water-Dependent Facility Acres Acres Sq Ft Total Disturbed Area # of Lots Created Acres Trees

Critical Area Narrative

1) Describe the proposed use of the subject property and include if the project is residential, commercial, industrial, or maritime

The property at 7750 Rockanna Road, Pasadena, MD 21122 is a residential property owned by Kevin and Jessica Brilhart. This property is near the water and therefore is in the critical area.

2) Describe the type of predominant trees and shrubs on the subject property. Include a statement addressing the square footage of the property that is vegetated with trees and shrubs, how much of the property will be disturbed by the proposed development, and how the disturbance will be mitigated.

There are three trees are varying types on the properties. One is an American Holly, one appears to be a crape myrtle, and the other tree is unknown. These were all on the property prior to our purchase of the house. We have planted significant shrubs on and around the front and the sides of the property. These are also large shrubs, approximately 15 feet along the side of the property.

The work proposed in the variance will not disturb any of the shrubs or trees in question and additional planting will be done after the project in conjunction with the guidance from the forestation team.

3) Describe the methods to minimize impacts on water quality and habitat from proposed construction (i.e. stormwater management, sediment control, and silt fence).

Maryland Decking, the contractor we used, has informed us there will need to be a silt fence installed and has been in discussions with the county about any additional steps needed to eliminate any potential impact on water quality. This project is to build a deck and a wall that are approximately 30 feet from the pier/water so we do not expect any impact to the pier or waterfront area.

 Calculate the impervious surface before and after construction, including all structures, gravel areas, driveways, and concrete areas.

The impervious spreadsheet has been submitted as part of the application. Please see the excerpt below with the details on impervious surface.

* Please Indicate Square Footage of Impervious Coverage for the following:

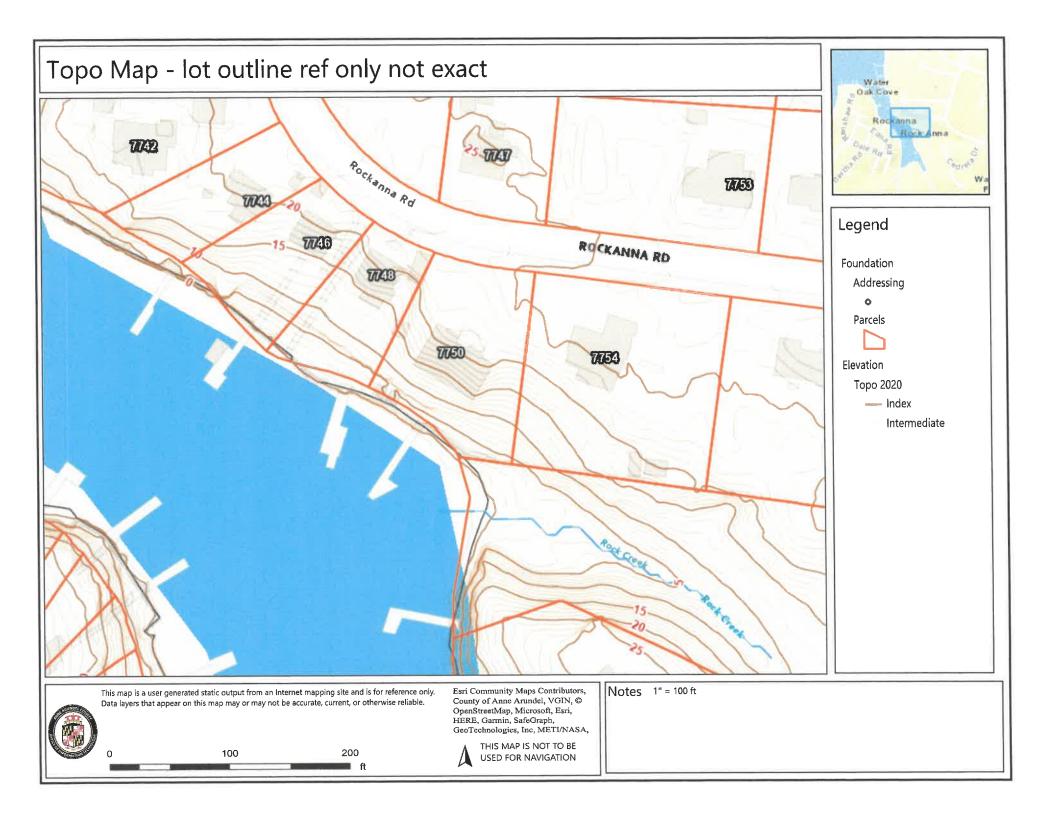
Existing Impervious		Proposed Impervious	
1. House (roof area) 230	Sq. Ft.	1. House (roof area) no change	Sq. Ft.
2. Driveway + Sidewalks 223	Sq. Ft.	2. Driveway + Sidewalks no change	Sq. Ft.
3. Accessory Structures 260	Sq. Ft.	3. Accessory Structures 640	Sq. Ft.
		4. Additions	Sq. Ft.
* Total Existing and Propo	osed Impervi	ous Coverage 843 Sq.	. Ft.
⊕ PLEASE INCLUDE AL	L EXISTIN	G AND PROPOSED SQUARE FOOTA	GE.
Barnabas Domowski Barn	nabas Domo	wski, (property owner and contrac ea worksheet is true and correct based up	t purchaser, if
this property from me (or corporation,	, if applicable	egoing document will be transferred to at e) at the time of settlement. I hereby undence of a building permit for lot # 8	erstand that
I hereby certify that I have seen and re Area requirements) and have indicated restrictions declared on said plat.	ead the recor	d plat (if approved after 1986 and subject thed site plan any easements, buffers, or o	t to Critical other
CZ-	(Sig	gnature) 5/2/2023 (Date)	
Owner- Contractor	(Tit	ile)	
	(Si	gnature)(Date)	
	(Ti	ile)	

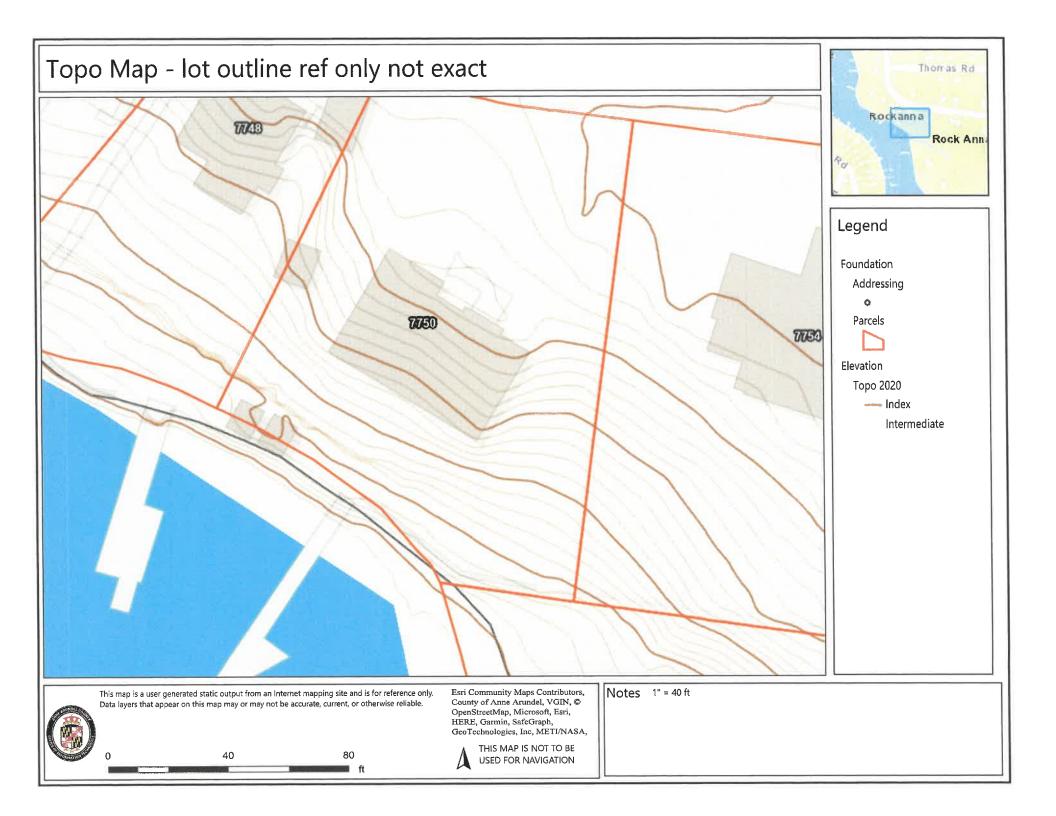
Thanks, Kevin Brîlhart

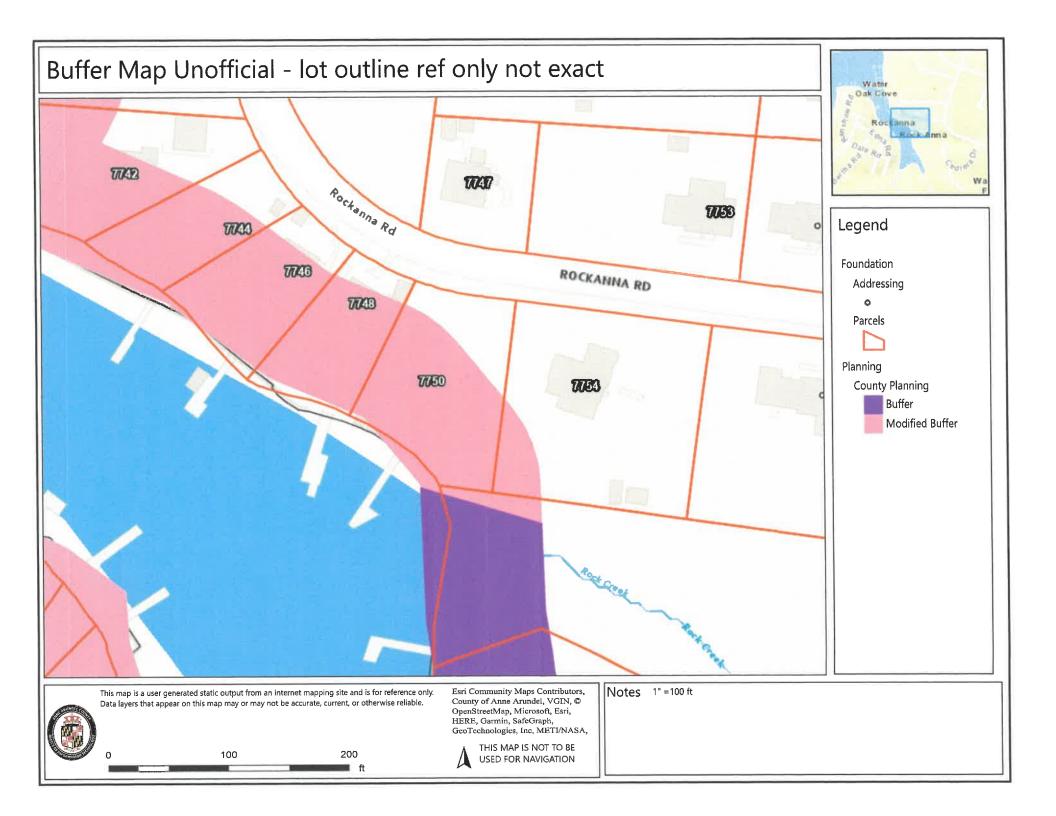
410-979-5666

CRITICAL AREA REPORT WORKSHEET TO ACCOMPANY THE SITE PLAN

Permit Number					
Total Site Area 640	Square 2	Feet (1 Acre = 43,560 S	Square Feet)		
Total Wooded Area COMMUNITY DOMINA: UNDERGROWTH), INCL	TED BY TREES AN	D OTHER WOODY F	PLANTS (SHRUBS A	AND	
* Please Indicate So	uare Footage of Woo	odland Removed for the	e following:		
1. House	. HouseSq. Ft.		5. Accessory Structure		
2. Septic or sewer	Sq. Ft.	6. Additions	6. Additions		
3. Well	Sq. Ft.	7. Storm Water Ma	7. Storm Water Management		
4. Driveway	Sq. Ft.	8. Other Clearing: etc.	8. Other Clearing: work area; access; stockp etc.		
* Tot	al Woodland Remov	ed = 0			
"Impervious Coverage" IS ROOFS, SIDEWALKS, DI GRAVAEL IS CONSIDER	RIVEWAYS, AND A	NY TYPE OF PAVEN			
* Please Indicate Sq	uare Footage of Impe	ervious Coverage for th	ne following:		
Existing Imp			posed Impervious		
1. House (roof area) 230 Sq.		1. House (roof area	a) no change	Sq. Ft.	
2. Driveway + Sidewalks _	23 Sq. Ft.	2. Driveway + Side	ewalks	Sq. Ft.	
3. Accessory Structures)Sq. Ft	. 3. Accessory Struc	tures	Sq. Ft.	
		4. Additions		Sq. Ft.	
* Total Existing	and Proposed Imper	vious Coverage 843	Sq. 1	Ft.	
⊕ PLEASE INC	LUDE ALL EXISTI	NG AND PROPOSED	SQUARE FOOTAG	E.	
, Barnabas Domowski	Barnabas Dom	nowski (proporty	y assmar and contract	nurahasar if	
Barnabas Domowski I Barnabas Domowski Applicable) hereby certify the knowledge. I further declare this property from me (or continuous computations shall be of Subdivision 000	e that a copy of the for proprogration, if applicate a binding part of issu	regoing document will ble) at the time of settle nance of a building per	l be transferred to any ement. I hereby under	y purchaser of rstand that	
I hereby certify that I have s Area requirements) and hav restrictions declared on said	e indicated on the att				
VZIII	(S	fignature) 5/2/2023	(Date)		
Owner- Contractor	T)	Title)			
	(S	ignature)	(Date)		
		34a)			

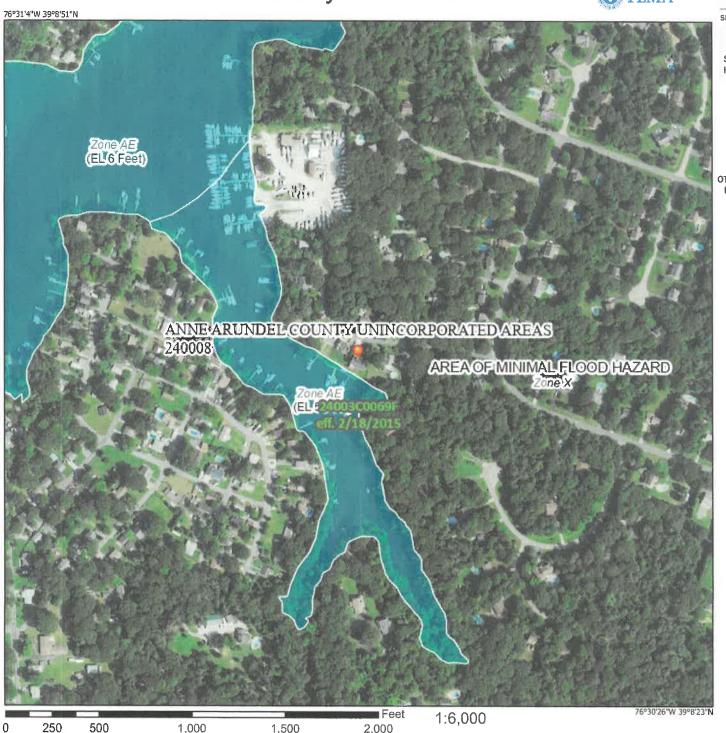






National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette





Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) With BFE or Depth zone AE, AO, AH, VE AR SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS Regulatory Floodway 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile zone x **Future Conditions 1% Annual** Chance Flood Hazard Zone X Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD Area with Flood Risk due to Levee zone D NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X Effective LOMRs OTHER AREAS Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard zone D --- - Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer STRUCTURES | 111111 Levee, Dike, or Floodwall 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance 17.5 Water Surface Elevation - Coastal Transect Limit of Study Jurisdiction Boundary --- Coastal Transect Baseline OTHER Profile Baseline **FEATURES** Hydrographic Feature Digital Data Available No Digital Data Available MAP PANELS Unmapped The pln displayed on the map is an approximate

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

point selected by the user and does not represent

an authoritative property location.

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 6/29/2023 at 12:53 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.





443-637-2429 Marylanddecking.com

To whom it may concern,

A Variance requested for the open deck 30x16 and 10x6 with steps to grade. The proposed deck is 13'- 3" High, The left setback is 24', The right setback is 26', and the rear setback is 30'. The property is a waterfront home with a retaining wall at the rear of the home.

Address: 7750 Rockanna Rd, Pasadena MD 21122

Contractor, Maryland Decking MHIC 117806



J. Howard Beard Health Services Building 3 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Phone: 410-222-7095 Fax: 410-222-7294 Maryland Relay (TTY): 711 www.aahealth.org

Tonii Gedin, RN, DNP Health Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Sadé Medina, Zoning Applications

Planning and Zoning Department, MS-6301

FROM:

Brian Chew, Program Manager

Bureau of Environmental Health

DATE:

August 23, 2023

RE:

Kevin Brilhart

7750 Rockanna Road Pasadena, MD 21122

NUMBER:

2023-0142-V

SUBJECT:

Variance/Special Exception/Rezoning

The Health Department has reviewed the above referenced variance to allow a dwelling addition (deck) with less setbacks than required and that does not comply with the designated location of a principal structure on a waterfront lot.

Based on the review of the above referenced request, additional information is needed by the Health Department on: the type and location of the water supply well and on-site sewage disposal system. The locations of all of these must be shown on the site plan before the Health Department can make a final determination on the variance request.

If you have further questions or comments, please contact Brian Chew at 410-222-7413.

cc:

Sterling Seay

2023-0142-V - VARIANCE

Menu Cancel Help Assigned Date 08/17/2023 Task **Due Date** OPZ Critical Area Team 09/07/2023 Assigned to Department
OPZ Critical Area
Action by Department
OPZ Critical Area Assigned to
Kelly Krinetz
Action By
Kelly Krinetz
End Time Status Complete w/ Comments Status Date 09/25/2023 Start Time **Hours Spent** 0.0 Billable Comments Overtime The existing deck needs to be repaired/replaced but there is no justification provided for an expansion. The existing home is substantially farther forward then the adjancent homes and additional encroachment is not warranted. **Time Tracking Start Date** Est. Completion Date Display E-mail Address in ACA Display Comment in ACAComment Display in ACA All ACA Users Record Creator Licensed Professional Contact Owner Action Updated Workflow Calendar **Estimated Hours** 0.0

Task Specific Information

Review Notes Reviewer Phone Number

2023 aerial

