

STATEMENT FOR HEARING

March 13, 2024

PRO. EXHIBIT# 1
CASE: 2023-0227-V
DATE: 3/26/24

Anne Arundel County
Office of Administrative Hearings
Arundel Center, PO Box 2700
Annapolis, MD 21404

RE: Robert Schapiro – 2023-0227-V (AD 7, CD 7) variance to allow barbed wire fence in an R2 – Residential District that is not used in connection with farming.

Property Address: 5146 Chalk Point Rd, West River, MD 20778

Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 11:30 am

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for taking the time to review my concerns regarding the barbed-wire fence located on Mr. Schapiro's property.

In reviewing Bill No. 6-19, it appears that even though a permit was submitted for a fence on Mr. Schapiro's property, it violates multiple provisions set forth in this Bill. However, I am only going to reference the infraction specific to this hearing.

Article 18. Zoning, Title 2. General Provisions, When Allowed (a)(1), it states "*Barbed-wire or electrical fences are allowed in RA, RLD, R1, and R2 Districts if used in connection with farming*".

The area with barbed wire fencing is not being used for farming. The area itself is mainly a voluptuous swamp land on the edge of Norman's Creek which homes an array of wildlife, especially a large population of deer. With the barbed wire fence in place the deer are required to figure out a route around, over, or under the fence. There have been multiple sightings of bent barbed wire, along with left behind animal fur.

A letter was submitted for this hearing on Mr. Schapiro's behalf, by Jeremy Verhoef, of All Around Fence LLC, and it states Mr. Schapiro installed this fencing for protection and to one day have livestock such as "chickens, goats, etc." The spacing of the barbed wire stands, of the five (5) foot tall fence, would hardly deter an intruder of entering his property if they were determined to do so. The space between each of the four (4) strands of barb wire is roughly a foot gap. With that information, this fence also would not stop any chicken, goat, or smaller form of livestock from escaping his property.

In closing: I agree Mr. Schapiro has the right to manage his property as he sees fit and has every right to install a fence on his property. The actual fence is not the issue, it's the chosen material. As one (1) of the "17 boarding neighbors", it is very disconcerting that Mr. Schapiro felt the need to install such an aggressive style of fencing in our residential area. I think there are multiple variants it seems he may not have put into consideration. In addition to the copious amounts of wildlife, there are many children that live and play in this area, along with numerous residents with family pets, that in addition, like to enjoy the outdoors. In some areas this fencing is hardly a foot off the property line, and no one should be concerned about their family's safety by simply enjoying their own back yard. There has already been reporting of a neighboring child getting scratched from the fence. Not every resident of the "17 boarding neighbors" of Mr. Schapiro's have their own fence on their property that can separate them from his barbed wire fence. Sure, the simple answer is to stay away from the fence, but we all know animals and children are not that self-aware.

Again, thank you for taking the time to review my concerns.

Sincerely,

West River Resident