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

APPLICANTS: Robert Schaefer, James Schaefer **ASSESSMENT DISTRICT: 8th**

& Kenneth Watts

CASE NUMBER: 2024-0107-V **COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT: 7th**

PREPARED BY: Donnie Dyott Jr. Planner **HEARING DATE**: November 21, 2024

REQUEST

The applicants are requesting a variance to allow a private residential pier that is not accessory to a dwelling unit on property located at 422 Leitch Road in Tracys Landing.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SITE

The site consists of approximately 4.55 acres of land and is split zoned RA - Rural Agricultural District, MA2 - Light Commercial Marina District and OS - Open Space District. The proposed private pier that is the subject of this variance request is located within the RA portion of the site. The site is located within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and is split designated as RCA -Resource Conservation Area and LDA - Limited Development Area. The pier that is the subject of this variance request is located within the RCA portion of the site.

This is a waterfront property on Tracys Creek that is improved with a commercial marina including two commercial piers within the MA2 portion of the site. The site is mapped as both Buffer and BMA - Buffer Modification Area, with the majority of the site and the proposed private pier being within the non BMA portion. The property is identified as Parcel 135 of Block 18 on Tax Map 77.

APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

The applicants are proposing to construct a private residential pier on the RA zoned portion of the site. The proposed pier would be 6' X 100' with a 4' X 20' platform. Also proposed as part of the private pier are 4 mooring pilings, 2 boatlifts and 2 catwalks measuring 3' X 16' and 3' X 20'.

REQUESTED VARIANCES

§ 18-4-106 of the Anne Arundel County Zoning Code permits a private residential pier in an RA – Rural Agricultural District if it is accessory to a dwelling unit. § 18-2-204(c) provides that an accessory structure or use may not be located on a lot other than the lot on which a principal structure is located. The proposed pier extends from the RA zoned portion of the site and no dwelling exists. Therefore, a variance to these provisions is required.

FINDINGS

The applicants' letter explains that the subject site is owned 50% by James Schaefer, 25% by Robert Schaefer and 25% by Kenneth Watts. The adjacent property to the south is owned by Robert Schaefer, Cynthia Schaefer, James Schaefer and Rachael Schaefer and is improved with two homes that are occupied by the owners. The Schaefer family owns 75% of the site and the remaining owner Mr. Watts supports the variance request.

The applicants contend that while the Schaefer family can currently use the commercial piers, the private residential pier would allow them to more safely enjoy the water and separate their personal uses from the commercial activities at the commercial marina. The private pier would also avoid taking commercial slips away from the marina due to personal use.

The **Health Department** has no objection to the variance request as the proposal does not adversely affect the on-site sewage disposal and well water supply systems.

The **Department of Recreation and Parks** commented that a portion of the site lies within Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure Network, a proposed preservation area considered in the Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure Master Plan. The proposed development is consistent with the spirit of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan.

The Cultural Resources Division (Office of Planning and Zoning) commented that the property is situated on a designated Scenic & Historic Road (Leitch Road) and has high archaeological potential. While they have no objection to the variance request, all development applications are subject to review for compliance with Article 17-6-501 to 504. The Cultural Resources division requires review of associated grading/building permits.

The Critical Area Division (Office of Planning and Zoning) commented that the proposed plans for a residential pier have been reviewed according to County requirements. The property line extensions are drawn correctly for the purpose of this residential pier and the CA Division has no objection to the variance request.

For the granting of a zoning variance, a determination must be made as to whether, because of certain unique physical conditions peculiar to and inherent in the property, strict implementation of the Code would result in an unwarranted hardship or practical difficulties. In this case the site is split zoned between RA, MA2 and OS Districts. The MA2 portion of the site has been improved with a commercial marina while the RA portion has not been improved with a residential use. The Schaefer family who owns a 75% interest in the subject property also owns the adjacent property to the south and would be the ones to utilize the proposed private residential pier. The split zoning of the property is a unique feature of the site and denial of a variance to allow some use of the residentially zoned portion presents a practical difficulty to the applicants. The proposed pier meets all applicable setback requirements and represents the minimum variance necessary to afford relief.

Piers with slips and associated mooring pilings are a common feature of waterfront properties and the neighborhood contains several piers in the area, some of which appear to be commercial and some of which appear to be private residential. Therefore, the proposed variances will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood and will not be detrimental to the public welfare. There is

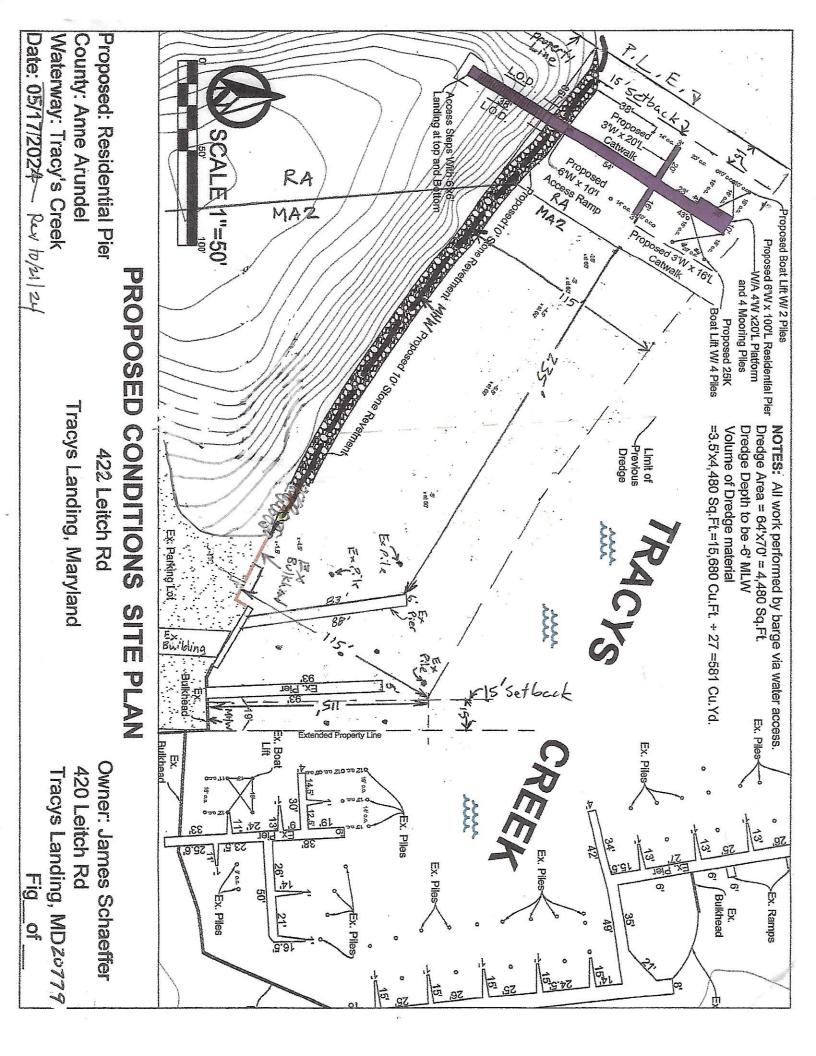
2024-0107-V

no evidence that the proposal will impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent properties, as the proposal appears to provide adequate separation for navigability.

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the standards set forth in § 18-16-305 under which a variance may be granted, this Office recommends *approval* of the variances for the pier to be located on a lot without a principal structure as shown on the site plan.

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.



Pen Mar Environmental Services, LLC

P.O. Box 6809 Annapolis, MD 21401 443.875.3955

March 27, 2024

Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning Division 2664 Riva Road, 3rd Floor Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: LETTER OF EXPLANATION
Proposed Residential Pier Installation
Schaefer Property
422 Leitch Road
Tracy's Landing, MD 20779

Dear Zoning Analyst,

On behalf of the property owners, Robert Schaefer, James Schaefer and Kenneth Watts, we are respectfully requesting a Variance to allow a residential pier on a property with no residential structure. The 4.55 acre property known as 422 Leitch Road in Tracy's Landing is located on the shore of Tracy's Creek in southeast Anne Arundel County. Tracy's Creek is a direct tributary of the Chesapeake Bay and is a Federal Navigation Channel that is dredged regularly by the County under the supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is split-zoned as Rural Agricultural (RA) and Light Commercial Marina District (MA2). Currently, there is an existing commercial marina with two commercial piers with 12 slips, a parking area and a commercial structure with a shed.

The proposed residential pier would be located within the RA portion of the 4.55 acre property. It meets the requirements for a residential pier in the State of Maryland. Upon extending the property lines into Tracy's Creek, the pier meets the 15-foot setback requirements for a residential pier in Anne Arundel County. No portion of the proposed residential pier extends into the MA2 zone. A building permit has been submitted to the County and is assigned Building Permit number B02422863. This proposed building permit request also includes a request to expand the commercial marina portion of the project. As designed, it is believed that the proposed commercial marina expansion does not require a variance and is not a part of this request.

The Variances being requested are for Article 18-2-204(c), Accessory Structures on a Different Lot, as well as Article 18-4-106, Permitted Uses - Private Residential Pier. The 4.55 acre Marina Property at 422 Leitch Road is owned 50% by James Schaefer, 25% by Robert Schaefer and 25% by Kenneth Watts. The immediately adjacent, 55.17 acre property known as 420 Leitch Road is owned jointly by Robert Schaefer, his wife Cynthia Schaefer, James Schaefer and his wife Rachael Schaefer. The 55.17 acre property supports two homes. Robert and Cynthia Schaefer live at 416 Leitch Road while James and Rachael Schaeffer live at 420 Leitch Road. Given the Schaefer Family's 75% ownership of the commercial Marina at 422 Leitch Road and the support/approval by their partner Mr. Watts, it is felt this is a viable request for a Variance to Articles 8-2-204 and 18-4-206 as the Schaefer Family owns the adjacent 55.17 acre property.

Schaefer Property Page Two March 27, 2024

The proposed 6' wide x 100' long residential pier would have a 4' wide x 20' long platform, two boat lifts, 4 mooring piles, a 3' wide x 16' long catwalk and a 3' wide x 20' long catwalk. All improvements fit within the buildable area without the need for a variance to side setbacks from the extended property lines. As the Schaefer family could enjoy the use of the commercial marina, using the commercial use for their private use is not a financially prudent way to operate a commercial business. Additionally, the children and grandchildren of the Schaefer family would be better served from a safety stand-point by being away from the commercial business for their personal activities. Including activities that can be enjoyed from a private residential pier, such as fishing and crabbing. Relocating personally owned vessels to the private pier is a desired feature that is not uncommon in this waterfront area. As the family grows and the children age, there will be room for the family to dock their vessels and enjoy a private pier, as opposed to taking away docking slips from their commercial marina.

The proposed residential pier would not alter the character of this waterfront area. Nor will it impair the use or development of adjacent properties. Outside of an allowable set of access steps to the pier, no forest cover will be removed in a Limited Development Area or Resources Conservation Area of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area as a result of the construction of the pier. It is believed that the proposed pier would not be detrimental to the environment or public welfare.

Previously granted variances that may bear on this case include Case numbers 2018-0140-V and 2020-0084-V. They can be found online at the Anne Arundel County website. Please review the attached plans and call me at 443.875.3955 if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely.

Doug Musser

Environmental Consultant

FPO#11373

Attachments

CC: Robert and Cynthia Schaefer, Owners James and Rachael Schaefer, Owners Kenneth Watts, Owner

2024-0107-V

Menu Cancel Help

Task Details OPZ Critical Area Team Assigned Date 09/06/2024 Assigned to Melanie Mathews Current Status Complete w/ Comments Action By Melanie Mathews Comments The proposed plans for a residential pier ha county requirements. The property line exte purpose of this residential pier. The critical a objections to the request of this variance.	Assi OPZ Statt 10/2' Over No Start re been reviewed according to asions are drawn correctly for the	7/2024 gned to Department Critical Area us Date 1/2024
Fnd Time	House	rs Spent
Life Tillie	0.0	is openi
Billable No Time Tracking Start Date In Possession Time (hrs)	Actic OPZ Est.	on by Department Critical Area Completion Date Display E-mail Address in ACA
Estimated Hours		Display Comment in ACA
0.0		Display Collinent III ACA
Comment Display in ACA		
All ACA Users		
Record Creator		
Licensed Professional		
Contact		
Owner		
Task Specific Information		
Expiration Date Re	view Notes Re	eviewer Name
Expiration Date		elanie Mathews

Reviewer Email
PZMATH20@aacounty.org

Reviewer Phone Number 410-222-6136

2024-0107-V

Menu Cancel Help

Task Details OPZ Cultural Resources	
Assigned Date	Due Date
09/06/2024	09/27/2024
Assigned to	Assigned to Department
Stacy Poulos	OPZ Cultural Resources
Current Status	Status Date
Complete w/ Comments	09/26/2024
Action By	Overtime No
Stacy Poulos Comments	Start Time
This property is situated on a designated Scenic & Historic Road (Leitch Rd.) and has high archaeological potential. While the Cultural Resources Section has no objection to the variance, all development applications are subject to review for compliance with Article 17-6-501 to 504. The Cultural Resources Section requires review of associated grading/building permits.	
End Time	Hours Spent
	0.0
Billable	Action by Department
No	OPZ Cultural Resources
Time Tracking Start Date	Est. Completion Date
In Possession Time (hrs)	Display E-mail Address in ACA
Estimated Hours 0.0	Display Comment in ACA
Comment Display in ACA	
All ACA Users	
Record Creator	
Licensed Professional	
Contact	
Owner	
Task Specific Information	

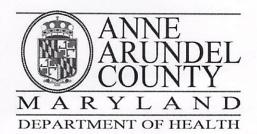
Review Notes

Reviewer Email

Reviewer Name

Expiration Date

Reviewer Phone Number



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:

September 10, 2024

RE:

James Schaefer

422 Leitch Road

Tracys Landing, MD 20779

NUMBER:

2024-0107-V

SUBJECT:

Variance/Special Exception/Rezoning

The Health Department has reviewed the above referenced variance to allow a private residential pier that is not accessory to a dwelling unit in an RA - Residential District.

The Health Department has reviewed the on-site sewage disposal and well water supply system 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.

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

cc:

Sterling Seay



STEUART PITTMAN, COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JESSICA LEYS, DIRECTOR
RECREATION AND PARKS
1 HARRY S. TRUMAN PKWY
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401
AACOUNTY.ORG/RECPARKS



MEMORANDUM

TO: Sadé Medina, Zoning Division

Office of Planning and Zoning

FROM: Pat Slayton

Capital Projects Division

SUBJECT: Variance Case 2024-0107-V

DATE: September 9, 2024

The Department of Recreation and Parks has reviewed the above plans to determine if there may be impacts to the Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure Network, parks, and trails. Please note our recommendations according to those findings below.

A portion of this site lies within the Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure Network, a
proposed preservation area considered in the Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure
Master Plan. The proposed development is consistent with the spirit of the Green
Infrastructure Master Plan.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has no further comments.

cc: File



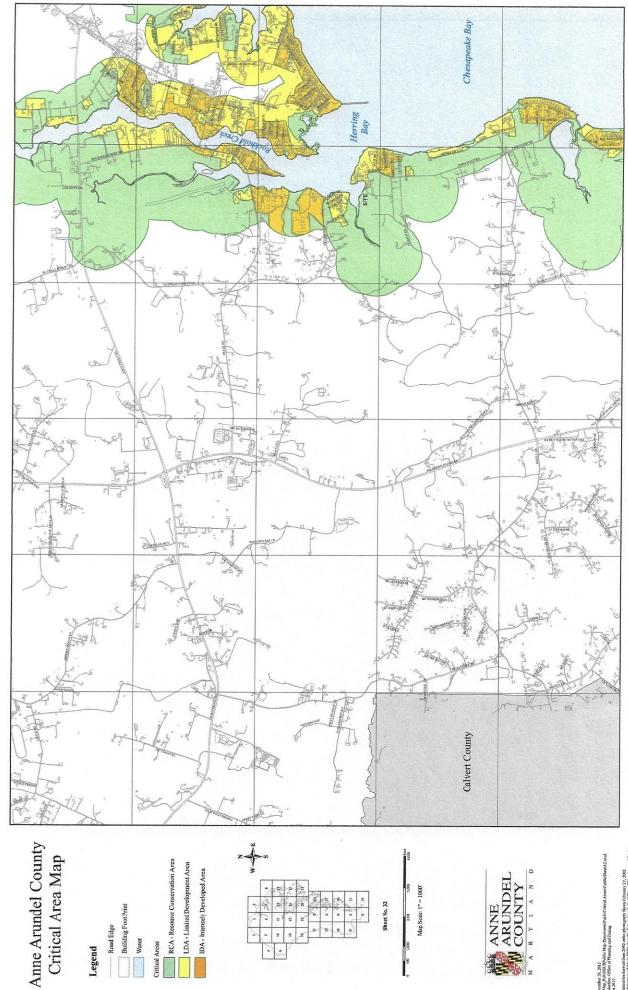


The material is for reference purposes only, and the County makes no representatives, warranties, or

You release the County, its agents, servants, and

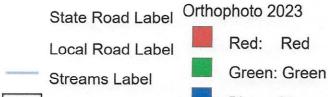
The material is in the public domain and may be

Time: 2:59 PM

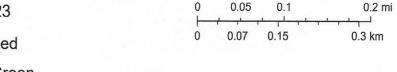


Aerial Photo - 422 Leitch Road





County Boundary



Blue: Blue

Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Esri Community Maps Contributors, County of Anne Arundel, VGIN, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

Parcels

Aerial Photo - 422 Leitch Road







Ortho 2021

Red: Red

Red: Red

Green: Green Green

Blue: Blue

Parcels

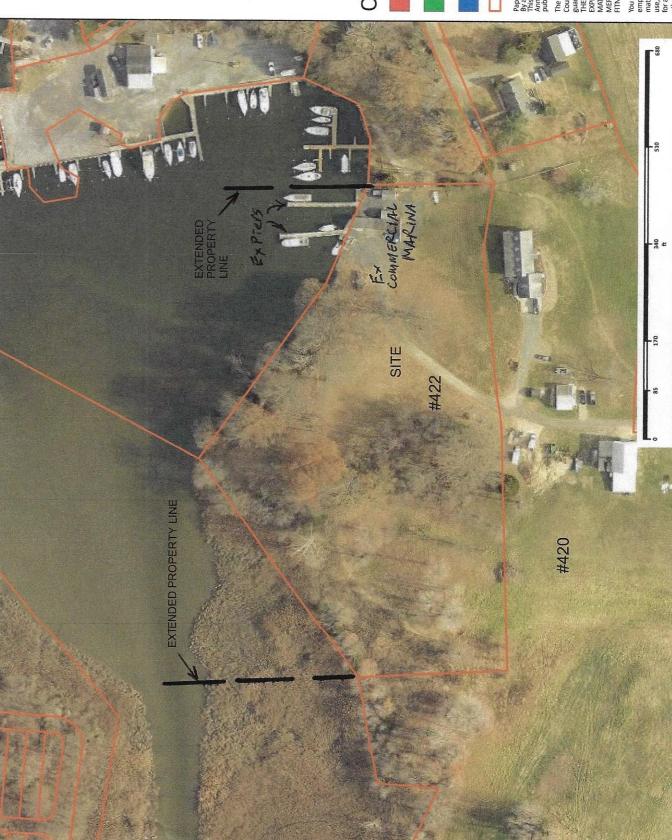
Paper Map DISCLAINIER:

Raceptance of this map material, you agree as follow:
This map material (the "material") is made available by
Anne Arundel County, Maryland (the "County") as a

County makes no representatives, warranties, or guarantees of the accuracy of the material. THE COUNTY MAKES NO, AND DISCLAMNS ALL, EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES RELATING TO THE MATERIAL, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, INTEGRATION, TITLE AND The material is for reference purposes only, and the FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

You release the County, its agents, servants, and employees, from any and all insuling related to the material or any of it, including its accuracy, availability, use, and misuse. In no event shall the County be liable loss of data, or business interruption, related in any way to the material or any of it, including its accuracy, for any direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, or other damages, including savings, profits, fees, costs,

is requested. Any errors or omissions in the material situation being the reported to the Anne Arundel County Office of Information Technology Geographic Information Services Group. The material is in the public domain and may be copied without permission. Citation to the source



Aerial Photo - 422 Leitch Rd



C1 Commercial - Local C2 Commercial - Office C3 Commercial - General C4 Commercial - Highway

- MA1 Community Marina
- MA1-B Neighborhood Marina MA2 Light Commercial Mar MA3 Yacht Club
- MB General Commercial Marina
 MC Heavy Commercial Marina
 MXD-C Mixed Use Commercial
 MXD-E Mixed Use Employment
 MXD-R Mixed Use Residential
- MXD-T Mixed Use Transit OS Open Space
- OTC-C Odenton Town Center Core

 IN OTC-E Odenton Town Center East Odenton Village Mix

 IN OTC-FH Odenton Town Center Fort Meade Business Mix

 IN OTC-H Odenton Town Center Historic COTC-I Odenton Town Center Industrial
 - OTC-T Odenton Town Center Historic
 - R22 Residential
- RLD Residential Low Density RA Rural Agricultural

 - TC Town Center
 - SB Small Business District
 - W1 Industrial Park W2 Industrial Light

Paper Map DISCLAIMER:
By acceptance of this map material, you agree as follow:
This map material (the "material") is made available by
Anne Aurole County, Maryland (the "County") as a
public service. The material is for reference purposes only, and the

County makes no representatives, warrantes, or guarantees of the accuracy of the material.

THE COUNTY MAKES NO, AND DISCLAMS ALL, EXPRESS AND IMPLED WARRANTIES REATING TO THE MATERIAL, INCLUDING WARRANTIES REATING TO THE MERCHANTABILITY, INTEGNITON, ITHE AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. You release the County, its agents, servants, and employees, from any and all insulity related to the material or any of it, including its accuracy, availability, use, and misuse. In no event shall the County be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, or other damages, including savings, profits, fees, costs, loss of data, or business interruption, related in any way to the material or any of it, including its accuracy, availability, use, and misuse.

The material is in the public dormain and may be copied without permission. Citation to the source is requested. Any errors or omissions in the material should be reported to the Anne Arundel County Office of information Technology Geographic information Services Group.

Zoning Map - 422 Leitch Rd

Tidal Wetland Map - 422 Leitch Rd



THE COUNTY MAKES NO AND DISCLAIMS ALL EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES RELATING TO THE MATERIAL, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, INTEGRATION, TITLE, AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

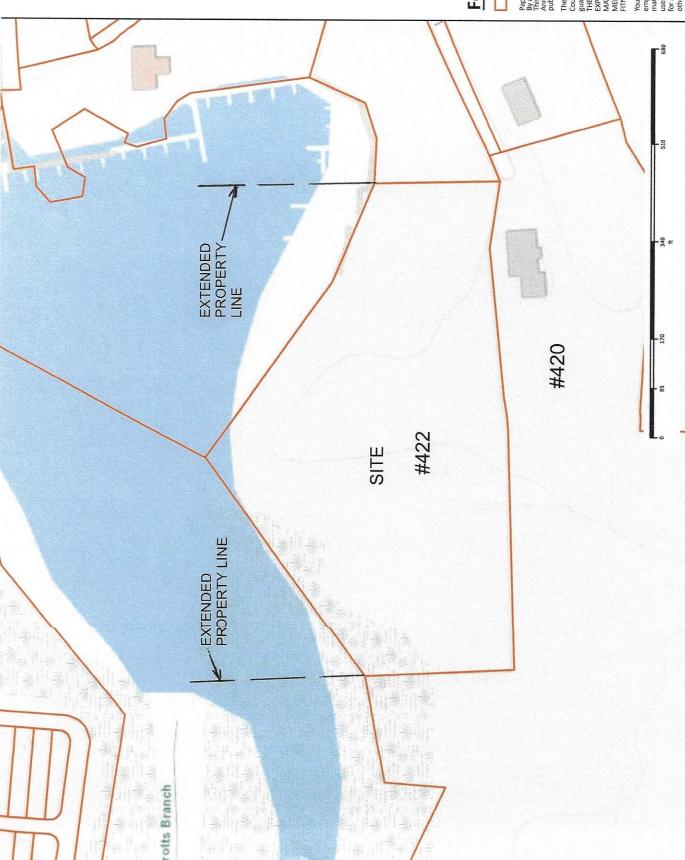
640 ft

160

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wetlands

County Bounday
Orthophoto 2023

Local Road Label Streams Label





Parcels

Paper Map DISCLAIMER:
By acceptance of this map material, you agree as follow:
This map material (the "material") is made available by
Anne Atundel County, Maryland (the "County") as a
public service.

public service.

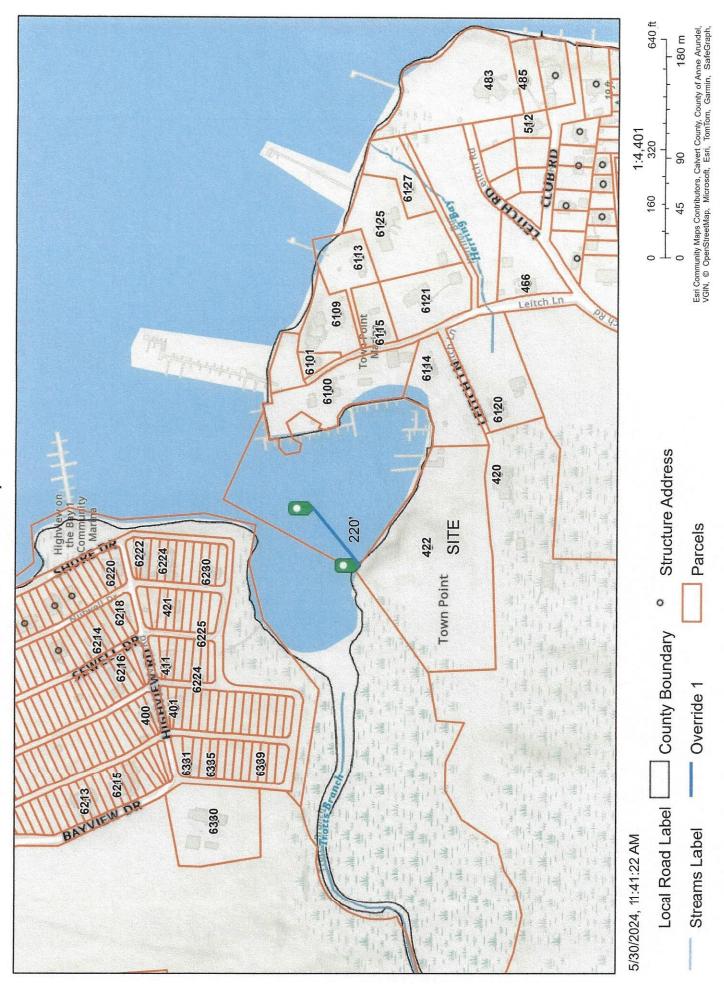
The material is for reference purposes only, and the County makes no representatives, warranties, or guarantees of the accusor of the accusor of the County MAKES NO, AND DISCUAINS ALL, EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES RECAING TO THE MATERIAL INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABLITY, INTEGRATION, TILL, AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

You release the County, its agents, servants, and employees, from any and all hability related to the material or any offt, including its accuracy, availability, use, and misuse. In no event shall the County be liable for any direct, indirect, inclorated, lonosequential, or other damages, including savings, profits, fees, costs, loss of data, or business interruption, related in any way to the material or and offt, including its accuracy, availability, use, and misuse.

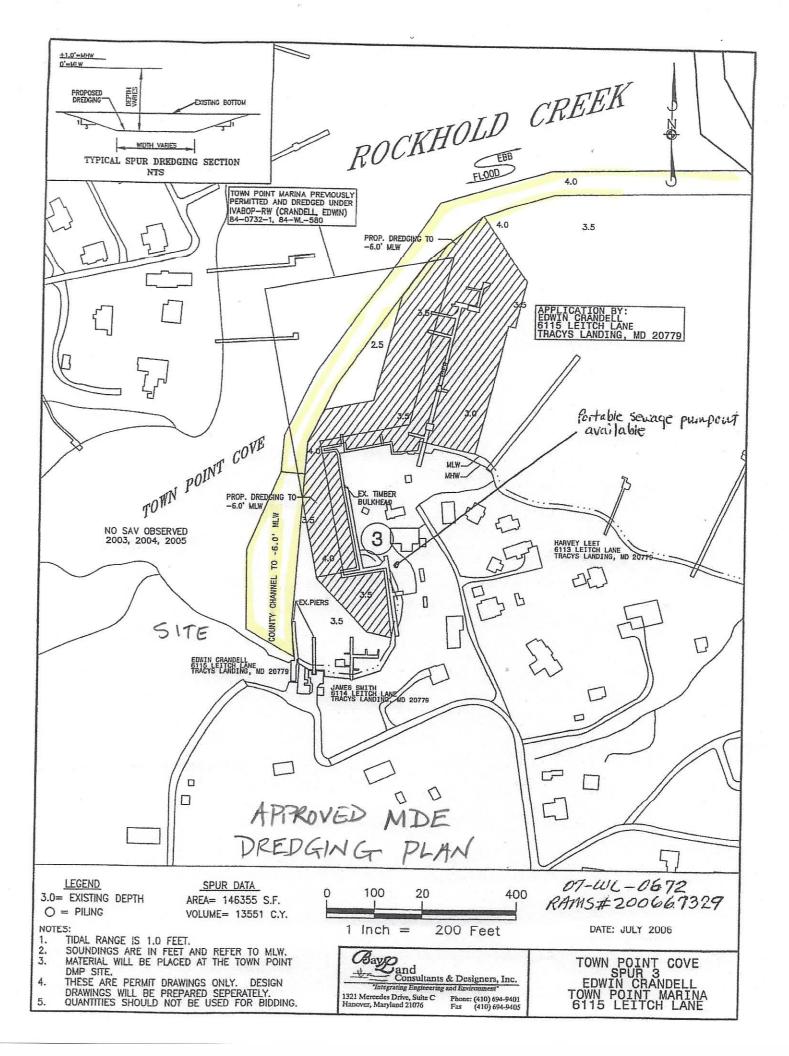
The material is in the public domain and may be copied without permission. Citation to the source is requested. Any errors or ornissions in the material should be reported to the Anne Arundel County Office of Information Technology Geographic Information Services Group.

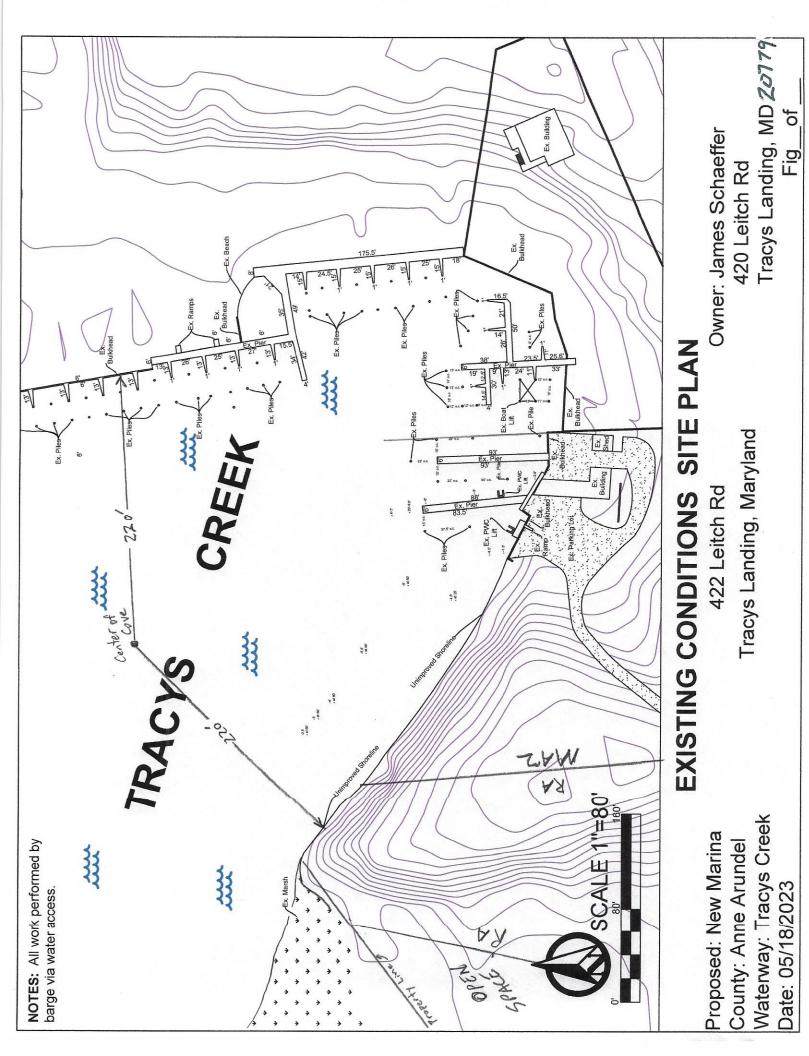
Extended Property Line Map - 422 Leitch Rd

Center of Cove Map - 422 Leitch Rd



THE COUNTY MAKES NO AND DISCLAIMS ALL EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES RELATING TO THE MATERIAL, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, INTEGRATION, TITLE, AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.





I Robert Schaefer,

do affirm that the property known as 420 Leitch Rd, Tracys Landing, Md has a" Tenant" house occupied by myself and wife. This is house is being used for farming operation on this property of 51 plus acres.

There is only 1 Tenant house on this 51 plus Acres.

Thank you

Robert Scheuper 9-5-24

Witness: Brooke Kiatta

Brooke Katta 9/5/24

Map Title





Legend

Foundation

Addressing

~

•

Parcels



Parcels - Annapolis City



This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

none

Notes



150 300

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION