

ent A

BONNIE VIEW COUNTRY CLUB, INC.
Smith Avenue
Mount Washington
Baltimore County, Maryland

Petitioner

vs.

WILLIAM S. BALDWIN,
W. GILES PARKER,
Constituting the County Board
of Appeals of Baltimore County

Defendants

IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT
FOR
BALTIMORE COUNTY
(AT LAW)

Case No. 3152
Misc. Docket No. 7
Folio 453

ORDER FOR APPEAL

MR. CLERK:

Please enter an Appeal to the Court of Appeals on behalf of
Bonnie View Country Club, Inc. from the Decision rendered by the Circuit Court
for Baltimore County on May 17, 1965, dismissing the above Appeal and affirming
the Decision of the County Board of Appeals for Baltimore County.

ROBERT L. SULLIVAN, JR.

ALAN J. WALESTER

SULLIVAN & PITLER
Attorneys for Petitioner
1410 Court Square Building
Baltimore, Maryland
Plaza 2-1122

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That on this 14th day of June, 1965, a copy
of the foregoing Order for Appeal was mailed to R. Taylor McLean, Esquire,
Campbell Building, Towson, Maryland 21204, and to E. Scott Moore, County Soli-
citor, Court House, Towson, Maryland 21204.

Of counsel for Petitioner

oral opinion

*Rec'd 6-28-65
9 AM*
AJH:cong
6-10-65



DEVELOPMENT PLAN
 SHEET NO. 1 OF 1
 CONING, HAYES, A. A. & ASSOCIATES
 ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS
 173-64
 1737 A STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019
 1737 A STREET, SILVER SPRING, MD.
 BONNIE RIDGE APARTMENTS
 1737 A STREET, SILVER SPRING, MD.
 DATE: 3/27/68
 SCALE: 1" = 40' - 0"

FALCON H		SECTION 1A	
NO.	AREA	NO.	AREA
1	1737 A	1	1737 A
2	1737 B	2	1737 B
3	1737 C	3	1737 C
4	1737 D	4	1737 D
5	1737 E	5	1737 E
6	1737 F	6	1737 F
7	1737 G	7	1737 G
8	1737 H	8	1737 H
9	1737 I	9	1737 I
10	1737 J	10	1737 J
11	1737 K	11	1737 K
12	1737 L	12	1737 L
13	1737 M	13	1737 M
14	1737 N	14	1737 N
15	1737 O	15	1737 O
16	1737 P	16	1737 P
17	1737 Q	17	1737 Q
18	1737 R	18	1737 R
19	1737 S	19	1737 S
20	1737 T	20	1737 T
21	1737 U	21	1737 U
22	1737 V	22	1737 V
23	1737 W	23	1737 W
24	1737 X	24	1737 X
25	1737 Y	25	1737 Y
26	1737 Z	26	1737 Z
27	1737 AA	27	1737 AA
28	1737 AB	28	1737 AB
29	1737 AC	29	1737 AC
30	1737 AD	30	1737 AD
31	1737 AE	31	1737 AE
32	1737 AF	32	1737 AF
33	1737 AG	33	1737 AG
34	1737 AH	34	1737 AH
35	1737 AI	35	1737 AI
36	1737 AJ	36	1737 AJ
37	1737 AK	37	1737 AK
38	1737 AL	38	1737 AL
39	1737 AM	39	1737 AM
40	1737 AN	40	1737 AN
41	1737 AO	41	1737 AO
42	1737 AP	42	1737 AP
43	1737 AQ	43	1737 AQ
44	1737 AR	44	1737 AR
45	1737 AS	45	1737 AS
46	1737 AT	46	1737 AT
47	1737 AU	47	1737 AU
48	1737 AV	48	1737 AV
49	1737 AW	49	1737 AW
50	1737 AX	50	1737 AX
51	1737 AY	51	1737 AY
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58	1737 BF	58	1737 BF
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60	1737 BH	60	1737 BH
61	1737 BI	61	1737 BI
62	1737 BJ	62	1737 BJ
63	1737 BK	63	1737 BK
64	1737 BL	64	1737 BL
65	1737 BM	65	1737 BM
66	1737 BN	66	1737 BN
67	1737 BO	67	1737 BO
68	1737 BP	68	1737 BP
69	1737 BQ	69	1737 BQ
70	1737 BR	70	1737 BR
71	1737 BS	71	1737 BS
72	1737 BT	72	1737 BT
73	1737 BU	73	1737 BU
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95	1737 CQ	95	1737 CQ
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117	1737 DM	117	1737 DM
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144	1737 EN	144	1737 EN
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167	1737 FK	167	1737 FK
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172	1737 FP	172	1737 FP
173	1737 FQ	173	1737 FQ
174	1737 FR	174	1737 FR
175	1737 FS	175	1737 FS
176	1737 FT	176	1737 FT
177	1737 FU	177	1737 FU
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232	1737 HX	232	1737 HX
233	1737 HY	233	1737 HY
234	1737 HZ	234	1737 HZ
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252	1737 IR	252	1737 IR
253	1737 IS	253	1737 IS
254	1737 IT	254	1737 IT
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259	1737 IY	259	1737 IY
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265	1737 JE	265	1737 JE
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267	1737 JG	267	1737 JG
268	1737 JH	268	1737 JH
269	1737 JI	269	1737 JI
270	1737 JJ	270	1737 JJ
271	1737 JK	271	1737 JK
272	1737 JL	272	1737 JL
273	1737 JM	273	1737 JM
274	1737 JN	274	1737 JN
275	1737 JO	275	1737 JO
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277	1737 JQ	277	1737 JQ
278	1737 JR	278	1737 JR
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281	1737 JU	281	1737 JU
282	1737 JV	282	1737 JV
283	1737 JW	283	1737 JW
284	1737 JX	284	1737 JX
285	1737 JY	285	1737 JY
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292	1737 KF	292	1737 KF
293	1737 KG	293	1737 KG
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295	1737 KI	295	1737 KI
296	1737 KJ	296	1737 KJ
297	1737 KK	297	1737 KK
298	1737 KL	298	1737 KL
299	1737 KM	299	1737 KM
300	1737 KN	300	1737 KN
301	1737 KO	301	1737 KO
302	1737 KP	302	1737 KP
303	1737 KQ	303	1737 KQ
304	1737 KR	304	1737 KR
305	1737 KS	305	1737 KS
306	1737 KT	306	1737 KT
307	1737 KU	307	1737 KU
308	1737 KV	308	1737 KV
309	1737 KW	309	1737 KW
310	1737 KX	310	1737 KX
311	1737 KY	311	1737 KY
312	1737 KZ	312	1737

SITE ANALYSIS

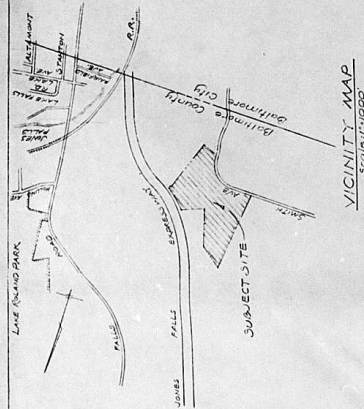
ZONE - R-1
 GROSS ACRES - 1.0
 NET ACRES - 0.8
 NET RESIDENTIAL (MAX AD) - 140
 NET RESIDENTIAL (MIN AD) - 100
 DENSITY PROVIDED - 140
 DENSITY REQUIRED - 100
 DENSITY PROVIDED - 140
 DENSITY REQUIRED - 100
 DENSITY PROVIDED - 140
 DENSITY REQUIRED - 100

UNIT ANALYSIS											
SECTION I											
UNIT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12

SECTION I											
UNIT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12

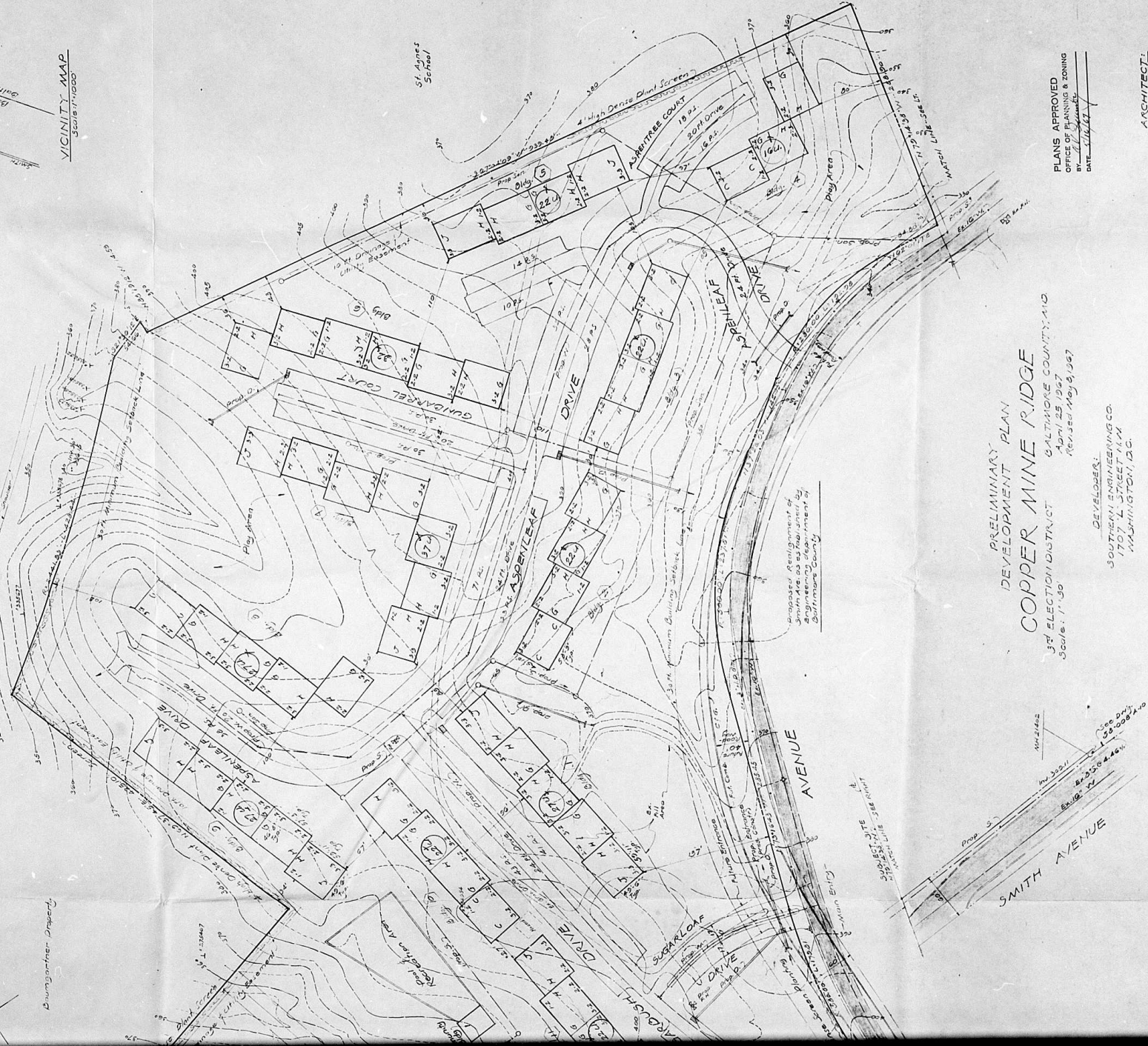
F1





JONES FALLS EXPRESSWAY

Bumgarner, Deputy



PRELIMINARY PLAN
DEVELOPMENT
COPPER MINE RIDGE
3rd ELECTION DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
April 25, 1967
Revised May 9, 1967

DEVELOPER:
SOUTHERN ENGINEERING CO.
1700 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

PLANS APPROVED
OFFICE OF PLANNING & ZONING
BY *[Signature]*
DATE *6/11/67*

ARCHITECT:
Cohen, Tull, AIA & Associates
David A. Holt, AIA, Associate
Architects & Planners
1103 Spring St., Silver Spring, Md.
ENGINEER:
Moitz, Childs & Associates
1020 Cromwell Bridge Road
Towson, Md. 21204

PROFILED

F 2

J.A. 64120

Gross Area of Tract	24,664 ac.
Gross Area of Tract	24,664 ac.
Change proposed for non-residential use	15,000 ac.
Net Residential decrease	13,167 ac.
Total No. of Units shown	7,146
Net % $\pm 3.3\%$	48,838
Net % $\pm 3.3\%$	48,838
Gross Residential Density	480 units
Net Residential Density	1335
Total No. of Housing Units (7,146)	641
Correct	Correct

Gross Area of Tract	33,664 ac.
Gross Area of Tract	33,664 ac.
Change proposed for non-residential use	15,000 ac.
Net Residential decrease	18,664 ac.
Total No. of Units shown	7,146
Net % 2-4	48.83%
Net % 5-9	46.00%
Gross Residential Density	13.35
Net Residential Density	6.41
Total No. of Housing Spaced (S) 120	8,574
Corrected	

LEGEND

50 TOTAL NO. OF UNITS

2-2 : 2 - 2 OR AOTS.

3-3 : 3 - 3 OR AOTS.

F1

Ewell stated that the back-up from this situation did not reach the county line, and we do not see where he stated how close it came to the county line. The zoning boards, in conducting their hearings, are not bound by the strict rules of evidence of a trial at law, but are permitted a reasonable discretion in admitting or excluding evidence. We do not deem it necessary or desirable to make an explicit ruling on the admissibility, vel non, of this evidence, but we will assume, without deciding, that it was admissible, and hold

1

MICROFILMED

MICROFILMED

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND

No. 238

September Term, 1965

BONNIE VIEW COUNTRY CLUB, INC.

LOUIS J. GLASS

Prescott, C.J.
Hammond
Harney
Oppenheimer
McWilliams,
JJ.

Opinion by Prescott, C. J.

Filed: March 22, 1966

Evidencing a determination to require the appellee to run the entire length of the legal "gauntlet," appellant, after fighting losing battles before the Deputy Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, the County Board of Appeals, and the Circuit Court, now asks relief from this Court.

The appellee moved to dismiss the appeal principally relying upon Maryland Rule 828 a. and b. It is extremely regrettable that members of the legal profession should find themselves in disagreement as to what they are "agreed" upon with reference to the Record Extract; if there be any chance of

disagreement, the better course to pursue is to have the agreement reduced to writing. As supplemented by appellee, we have found the Record Extract sufficient.

The County Board of Appeals granted a petition for reclassification of land zoned R-10 (one-family residential--10,000 feet) and R-20 (one-family--20,000 feet) to R-A (Town House Apartments) on the ground of error in the original zoning, and the correctness of its action, under the circumstances here presented, is the principal question we are called upon to answer.

The facts herein seem to present a unique picture in the annals of zoning in Maryland. The subject property consists of about 33 acres of land located in the 3rd District of Baltimore County. The comprehensive zoning map upon which the tract is zoned was adopted in 1957. We have experienced considerable difficulty in finding in the briefs and record extract a succinct, yet not too succinct, description of the surrounding and nearby zoning classifications; however, we shall do the best we can with what we have.

The tract is located on the northeast corner of Smith Avenue and Timber Ridge Road. It is bounded on the east by a private school, on the west by some R-10 and R-20 property and a portion of appellant's country club, and on the northeast by the Jones Falls Expressway and the property of Mrs. Baumgartner.

The appellee purchased the property in 1954 as an investment. After trying to sell the same for a period of years, he "commenced to wonder why." Upon investigation, it was discovered that extensive copper-mining operations had been undertaken on the property in the latter half of the last century, which were renewed for a short period during World War I. These mining operations

line through the tract and the Jones Falls Expressway on its border do not deter apartment development, but make cottage development unfeasible.

Under present zoning, Mr. Jones declared, you would not get even three houses per acre, you would get none, because no one would attempt to develop the land under the existing zoning. Mr. Jones stated that he favored apartment zoning for the subject property not merely because of economics--not merely because the land was more suitable for apartment use rather than any other--but because it constituted an ideal and harmonious transition between industrial, commercial, expressway, and residential uses, and the present zoning represented an illogical, bad and impossible use.

Mr. Peter, the attorney for Mrs. Baumgartner, on owner of some 20 adjoining acres, improved by a dwelling to the north of the subject property, testified that she was "anxious" to have the property rezoned; that it now is "a dump," "an eyesore," and a "health hazard"; and that it would increase the value of her property.

A Mr. Gambrell, an adjoining property owner whose residence was about 850 feet from the subject tract opposed the rezoning, feeling that it would decrease the value of his property, cause traffic congestion on Smith Avenue, and overcrowd the local schools. He also doubted, from what he had been told, that the main portions of the mine shafts were located on the property.

Mr. Goldstein, President of appellant, opposed appellee's application, principally on the ground of increased traffic on Smith Avenue. This was all of protestant's testimony, except that of a traffic expert, which will be considered below.

Upon this evidence, the Board concluded there was error in the original zoning "probably because at the time of the adoption of

involved the construction of a number of mining shafts, both main and lateral. The shafts proceeded from the opening site diagonally to Smith Avenue, some ranging to 600 and 700 feet deep. There are at least 7 horizontal levels, in addition to the main shaft, which tend to negate the feasibility of construction of any kind above them. Photographic exhibits show that several of the old miners' shacks (of which there were originally about 60), outhouses, and other structures are still extant, but all are in poor, rotted, and dilapidated conditions; and that the land has become prey to the dumping of trash and refuse of various kinds, with certain areas being concentrated upon for that purpose.

Dr. Glass testified he had had the property on the market for about 10 years, but invariably prospective purchasers, after investigating the condition of the property and learning "the extreme cost" involved in R-10 or R-20 development, felt that it was impossible--"the cost would be too exorbitant."

Lester Matz, a well-known and experienced engineer, testified that he had discovered the existence of the mine shafts in 1952, prior to appellee's acquisition of the property, while running a survey for another party, and that he had been consulted by at least a dozen realtors and developers with regard to the existing zoning, prior to being called for a study by appellee. He felt obliged to warn them to stay away because of the shafts and horizontal mines. Mr. Matz stated that 20 of the 33 acres contain grades up to 40% or more, and that 3 pumping stations and 3 force mains would be needed in order to sewer this tract. The deep swale coming north off of Smith Avenue would make it impossible to have front lots on Smith Avenue. This creates a considerable paving problem and expense. Moreover, 12 out of 19 tests indicated the presence of rock 4 to 10 feet deep under the land. He concluded that it would not be economically feasible to use this property for a

the map no one brought to the attention of the authorities the physical (mine shafts) and topographical factors involved, nor the uses of the surrounding properties." This conclusion was based, of course, principally upon the testimony of Messrs. Matz and Jones. On appeal, as previously stated, the Circuit Court affirmed.

A long line of decisions of this Court has recognized that comprehensive zoning or rezoning carries a strong presumption of correctness, and those who attack the same bear a heavy burden in overcoming that presumption. It is also true that piecemeal rezoning granted by the zoning authorities has a presumption of correctness, although not so potent as the presumptions of comprehensive zoning or rezoning. We have stated on so many occasions that it is not the duty or the function of the courts to zone or rezone, the statement has become trite. "It is only where there is no room for reasonable debate or where the record is devoid of substantial, supporting facts that the courts are justified in reversing a decision of the Board or declaring its actions arbitrary or capricious." Jabor v. Rodgers Forge, 236 Md. 106, 120.

Bearing in mind the above principles, we feel impelled to find that the conclusion reached by the Board relative to original zoning was fairly debatable. We shall not repeat all of the details testified to by applicant's experts as to why the original zoning was in error. The extraordinary situation existing in 1957 (the time of comprehensive zoning or rezoning) caused by the generally unknown mine shafts and subsurface rock formations, when coupled with the topography making the property unusually unfit for single-family residential development, render that conclusion such that reasoning minds could reasonably have reached the result the agency reached upon a fair consideration of the fact picture painted by the entire record.

cottage type development.

On cross-examination, Mr. Matz characterized as "silly" a question as to whether it was physically possible to develop this land as R-10, R-20; that any land could be so developed, but that it was a question of economics, because no one would buy land in which he could not make a profit. The reclassification of the zoning to R-A (apartment development),

"* * * is so much more suitable because it can use a good portion of the ground and we do not have to touch the poor topography." He added that "if this piece of ground were given to me under existing zoning, I wouldn't take it." Although pumping stations are "not unusual" in R-10 and R-20 developments, "if everything works out pretty good," he noted the difference in pumping requirements as between an apartment site and R-10 site; the former required connections 3-4 feet in the ground, the latter a 50 foot right of way and sewers 6 feet deep.

J. Walter Jones, a well-known real estate expert and consultant, testified that he was consulted by appellee regarding this tract. He had been familiar with the property for years; in his opinion the tract could not be developed for cottages, because: the topography makes the development for R-10 and R-20 impractical; the rock and previous mining operations under the property make it very undesirable for housing; the proximity of Jones Falls Expressway makes it less desirable for houses than for apartments; and the high cost of development make it unfeasible for housing development. Reasons why R-A would be the desirable and correct use are that it is economically feasible for a builder, and the property is a good transition location from the industrial area east of the beltway and the expressway and over into the housing area.

Board v. Oak Hill Farms, 232 Md. 274. When this occurs, our only course is to affirm. Cf. A. W. Dill, et al v. The Jabor Corporation, No. 103, September Term, 1965, just decided.

The principal objection raised by the appellant was the increase in traffic which would be generated by the development of the property. It complains of difficulty in entering and leaving its property from Smith Avenue by automobile, and inconvenience to its members in walking and riding in golf-carts across sold highway at other places--its property lies on both sides thereof.

The question does not give us serious difficulty. Applicant produced a Mr. Klinedinst of the Baltimore City Traffic Engineer's office. His counting machines showed that some 2900 vehicles passed, both ways, over Smith Avenue in a day's time at a point near the City line, which is not far distant from the subject tract. Then Joseph D. Thompson, a highly experienced Registered Professional Engineer, testified for the applicant. There is a sight-distance at appellant's entrance of 398 feet to the east and 242 feet to the west; both of which were safe and adequate in the witness' opinion. Actual counts on several different days disclosed that some 2900 vehicles passed over Smith Avenue in periods of 24 to 25 hours, with peak-hour-loads of about 290 vehicles. A possible increase of about 300 cars could be expected from the proposed development, which would not come "anywhere near * * * the practical capacity of 900 to 1000 cars per hour." The witness believed that the proposed development would not only create no "undue congestion" on Smith Avenue, but that "it would not affect (traffic thereon) adversely."

The protestants produced Walter W. Ewell, a highly qualified Registered Professional Engineer, but his frank and candid testimony did not come close to taking the conclusion of the Board--"On

12,377.94.
Containing 23.55 acres of land more or less.
Being a part of the Parcel of land described in a deed dated June 30, 1955, and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber G.L.R. No. 2724, Folio 127, which was conveyed by W. Herbert Cypwell and wife to Louis J. Glass and wife.
Being the property of Louis J. Glass and Mildred Glass, as shown on plat plan filed with the Zoning Department.
By Order of
JOHN G. BOGE,
Zoning Commissioner of
Baltimore County.
Jan. 24.

