

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR. County Executive

MAUREEN E. MURPHY
Chief Administrative Law Judge
ANDREW M. BELT
Administrative Law Judge
DEREK J. BAUMGARDNER
Administrative Law Judge

March 4, 2024

James Wayne Gillespie 5929 Williams Road Hydes, MD 21082

RE:

Petitions for Special Hearing & Variance

Case No. 2023-0264-SPHA Property: 5929 Williams Road

Dear Petitioner:

Enclosed please find a copy of the decision rendered in the above-captioned matter.

Pursuant to Baltimore County Code § 32-3-401(a), "a person aggrieved or feeling aggrieved" by this Decision and Order may file an appeal to the County Board of Appeals within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. For further information on filing an appeal, please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 410-887-3868.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. BELT Administrative Law Judge

for Baltimore County

AMB:dlm Enclosure

C: Stephen Perry - <u>premiertitlellc@gmail.com</u>

IN RE: PETITIONS FOR SPECIAL HEARING * BEFORE THE

AND VARIANCE
(5929 Williams Road) * OFFICE OF

11th Election District
3rd Council District * ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
James Wayne Gillespie

Legal Owner * FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY

Petitioner * Case No. 2023-0264-SPHA

* * * * * * *

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") for consideration of Petitions for Special Hearing and Variance filed on behalf of James Wayne Gillespie, legal owner ("Petitioner") for the property located at 5929 Williams Road, Hydes (the "Property"). The Special Hearing was filed pursuant to Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR"), §500.7 to permit an accessory building (1064 sq. ft.) which has a building footprint larger than the principle use dwelling (897.12 sq. ft.) In addition, Variance relief was also requested from BCZR, §400.3 to approve an accessory building (garage) in the rear yard at a height of 18 ft., in lieu of the maximum height of 15 ft.

A public WebEx hearing was conducted virtually in lieu of an in-person hearing. The Petition was properly advertised and posted. Petitioner, James Wayne Gillespie, appeared at the hearing. Stephen Perry also appeared and assisted the Petitioner. There were no Protestants or interested citizens that appeared at the hearing.

A Zoning Advisory Committee ("ZAC") comment was received from the Department of Planning ("DOP") they did not oppose the relief.

The Property is 2.75 acres +/- and is zoned RC 2. The property is located in Hydes area of Baltimore County. The property is improved with wooden barns and a 2-story red brick principal

dwelling with building footprint of 897.12 sq. ft. (Including the chimney area in the calculation would result in a building footprint of slightly over 900 sq. ft.) The subject property is oddly shaped and slopes toward the rear. (Pet. Exs. 1 & 3) Rural residential dwellings, forest conservation and agricultural purposes surround the property.

Petitioner's family constructed the dwelling on the subject property in 1966 and he currently lives in the dwelling with is son. The Petitioner proposes the construction of a 1064 sq. ft. pole barn in the rear of the subject property. There is a small tree line along the back property line that would substantially shield this barn from the nearest neighboring property. (Pet. Ex. 2) The proposed structure would not be visible from Williams Road as well. The Petitioner desires to house his trucks, lawn tractors and equipment trailers in the proposed pole barn. Petitioner would also like to install a car lift for servicing his vehicles that would require the additional 3 ft. in height. The pitch of the roof accounts for approximately 5 ft. of the proposed 18 ft. height and the proposed roof pitch will be designed to match that of the principal dwelling.

SPECIAL HEARING

A hearing to request special zoning relief is proper under BCZR, §500.7 as follows:

The said Zoning Commissioner shall have the power to conduct such other hearings and pass such orders thereon as shall, in his discretion, be necessary for the proper enforcement of all zoning regulations, subject to the right of appeal to the County Board of Appeals as hereinafter provided. The power given hereunder shall include the right of any interested person to petition the Zoning Commissioner for a public hearing after advertisement and notice to determine the existence of any purported nonconforming use on any premises or to determine any rights whatsoever of such person in any property in Baltimore County insofar as they are affected by these regulations.

"A request for special hearing is, in legal effect, a request for a declaratory judgment." *Antwerpen v. Baltimore County*, 163 Md. App. 194, 877 A.2d 1166, 1175 (2005). And, "the administrative

practice in Baltimore County has been to determine whether the proposed Special Hearing would be compatible with the community and generally consistent with the spirit and intent of the regulations." *Kiesling v. Long*, Unreported Opinion, No. 1485, Md. App. (Sept. Term 2016).

Based on the evidence, I find that the Special Hearing relief should be granted and that such relief is within the spirit and intent of the BCZR. The Property is located in a rural setting where such structures are common. The Petitioner originally requested a 1200 sq ft. building footprint, but has agreed to amend his request to a 28 ft. by 38.sq. ft. structure, for a total building footprint of 1064 sq. ft. Due to the fact that the principal dwelling was built in 1966 it is not uncommon for the building footprint of such an accessory structure to slightly exceed that of the principal dwelling.

A variance request involves a two-step process, summarized as follows:

- (1) It must be shown the property is unique in a manner which makes it unlike surrounding properties, and that uniqueness or peculiarity must necessitate variance relief; and
- (2) If variance relief is denied, Petitioner will experience a practical difficulty or hardship.

Cromwell v. Ward, 102 Md. App. 691 (1995).

The Property is uniquely shaped with steep topography sloping toward the rear of the property. I find that the Petitioner would suffer a practical difficulty and unreasonable hardship if he proposes larger size of the barn and additional 3 ft. height were not granted because he would not be able to construct a reasonably sized barn to store his vehicles and yard maintenance equipment. The barn will not be visible from Williams Road and will be partially shield from the adjoining property by an evergreen tree line. I also find that the requested variance relief can be granted in strict harmony with the spirit and intent of the BCZR and without injury to the health, safety or general welfare, particularly in light of the lack of opposition.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED this 4th day of March, 2024 by this Administrative Law Judge, that the Petition for Special Hearing from the BCZR §500.7 to approve an accessory building (garage) in the rear yard at a height of 18 ft., in lieu of the maximum height of 15 ft. be and it is hereby, GRANTED; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Variance relief from BCZR, §400.3 to approve an accessory building (garage) in the rear yard at a height of 18 ft., in lieu of the maximum height of 15 ft. be, and it is hereby, **GRANTED.**

The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

- 1. Petitioner may apply for necessary permits and/or licenses upon receipt of this Order. However, Petitioner is hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at their own risk until 30 days from the date hereof, during which time an appeal can be filed by any party. If for whatever reason this Order is reversed, Petitioner would be required to return the subject property to its original condition.
- 2. The Revised Site Plan (Pet. Ex. 1A) attached hereto is incorporated into this Order.
- 3. Petitioners and/or subsequent owners shall not convert the accessory building (garage) into a dwelling unit or apartment. The proposed garage shall not contain any sleeping quarters, living area, and kitchen or bathroom facilities.
- 4. The garage shall also not be used for commercial or industrial purposes. It may be used for agricultural purposes.
- 5. The garage shall not have a separate utility or electric connection and shall connect to the electrical/utility in the home.

Any appeal of this decision must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

ANDREW M. BELT

Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

AMB/dlm

PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S) To be filed with the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections To the Office of Administrative Hearings for Baltimore County for the property located at: HYDES MD 21082 Currently Zoned 10 Digit Tax Account # Deed Reference Owner(s) Printed Name(s) (SELECT THE HEARING(S) BY MARKING X AT THE APPROPRIATE SELECTION(S) AND ADDING THE PETITION REQUEST) The undersigned, who own and occupy the property situate in Baltimore County and which is described in the plan/plat attached hereto and made a part hereof, hereby petition for an: 1. 7 a Special Hearing under Section 500.7 of the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to determine whether or not the Zoning Commissioner should approve To permit an accessory building (1,200 sq. ft) which has a building footprint larger than the principle use dwelling (897.12 sq.ft.) a Special Exception under the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County to use the herein described property for 3. * a Variance from Section(s) BCZR 400.3 To approve an accessory building (garage) in the rear yard at a height of 18 ft in lieu of the maximum of the zoning regulations of Baltimore County, to the zoning law of Baltimore County, for the following reasons: (Indicate below your hardship or practical difficulty or indicate below "TO BE PRESENTED AT HEARING". If you need additional space, you may add an attachment to this petition) Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by the zoning regulations. I/ we agree to pay expenses of above petition(s), advertising, posting, etc. and further agree to be bound by the zoning regulations and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the zoning law for Baltimore County. Legal Owner(s) Affirmation: I / we do so solemnly declare and affirm, under the penalties of perjury, that I / We are the legal owner(s) of the property which is the subject of this / these Petition(s). Legal Owners (Petitioners): Contract Purchaser/Lessee: Name #2 - Type or Print Type or Print Name - Type or Print Signature #2 Signature #1 Signature 979 Mailing Address Mailing Address City State

Telephone #'s (Cell and Home) **Email Address** Zip Code Email Address Zip Code Telephone # Representative to be contacted: Attorney for Petitioner: Type or Print Name - Type or Print Signature Signature 505 Mailing Address City State Mailing Address **Email Address** Telephone # Zip Code **Email Address** Zip Code Telephone # 8 Do Not Schedule Dates Filing Date

J.S. DALLAS, INC.

Surveying & Engineering

P.O. Box 26 Baldwin, MD 21013 (410)817-4600 FAX (410)817-4602

ZONING DESCRIPTION FOR #5929 WILLIAMS ROAD

BEGINNING at a point on the southwest side of Williams Road which is 60 feet wide at the distance of 20 feet northwest from the extended centerline of paving of Bottom Road

BEING Lot #1 as shown on the Plat of "Dickerson Manor" recorded as recorded in Baltimore County Plat Book Number 30 folio 113.

CONTAINING 117,183 square feet or 2.690 acres of land, more or less.

LOCATED the 11th Election District, 3rdCouncilmanic District.



20230264-SPHA

DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS ZONING REVIEW OFFICE

ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ZONING HEARINGS

The Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (BCZR) require that notice be given to the general public/ neighboring property owners relative to property which is the subject of an upcoming zoning hearing. For those petitions which require a public hearing, this notice is accomplished by posting a sign on the property (responsibility of the legal owner/petitioner) and placement of a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the County, both at least twenty (20) days before the hearing.*

Zoning Review will ensure that the legal requirements for advertising are satisfied. However, the legal owner/petitioner is responsible for the costs associated with these requirements. The newspaper will bill the person listed below for the advertising. This advertising is due upon receipt and should be remitted directly to the newspaper.

OPINIONS MAY NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL ALL ADVERTISING COSTS ARE PAID.

For Newspaper Adv	vertising:	- Mari
Case Number:	2023-0264-59AA	
Property Address:	5929 Williams Rd	
and any one and and and an address and an address	Hydes in 21082	
Legal Owners (Peti	tioners): James Gillespie	(A.
	-/Lessee:	
		39
PLEASE FORWARD	ADVERTISING BILL TO:	
	Firm (if applicable): STEDNER PERRY 5505 Old YORK RL	 ·
To the second se	NONKTON NO 21111	
19. A TOTAL OF THE PARTY OF THE		
Telephone Number	: 410-916-4434	

^{*}Failure to advertise and/or post a sign on the property within the designated time will result in the Hearing request being delayed. The delayed Hearing Case will be cycled to the end of pending case files and rescheduled in the order that it is received. Also, a \$250.00 rescheduling fee may be required after two failed advertisings and/or postings.



Background Photo 1st Sign @ 5929 Williams Rd. $\sim 2/4/2024$



Background Photo Back of 1st Sign @ 5929 Williams Rd. $\sim 2/4/2024$ <u>CASE # 2023-0264-SPHA</u>

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

ATTENTION: KRISTEN LEWIS

DATE: 2/4/2024

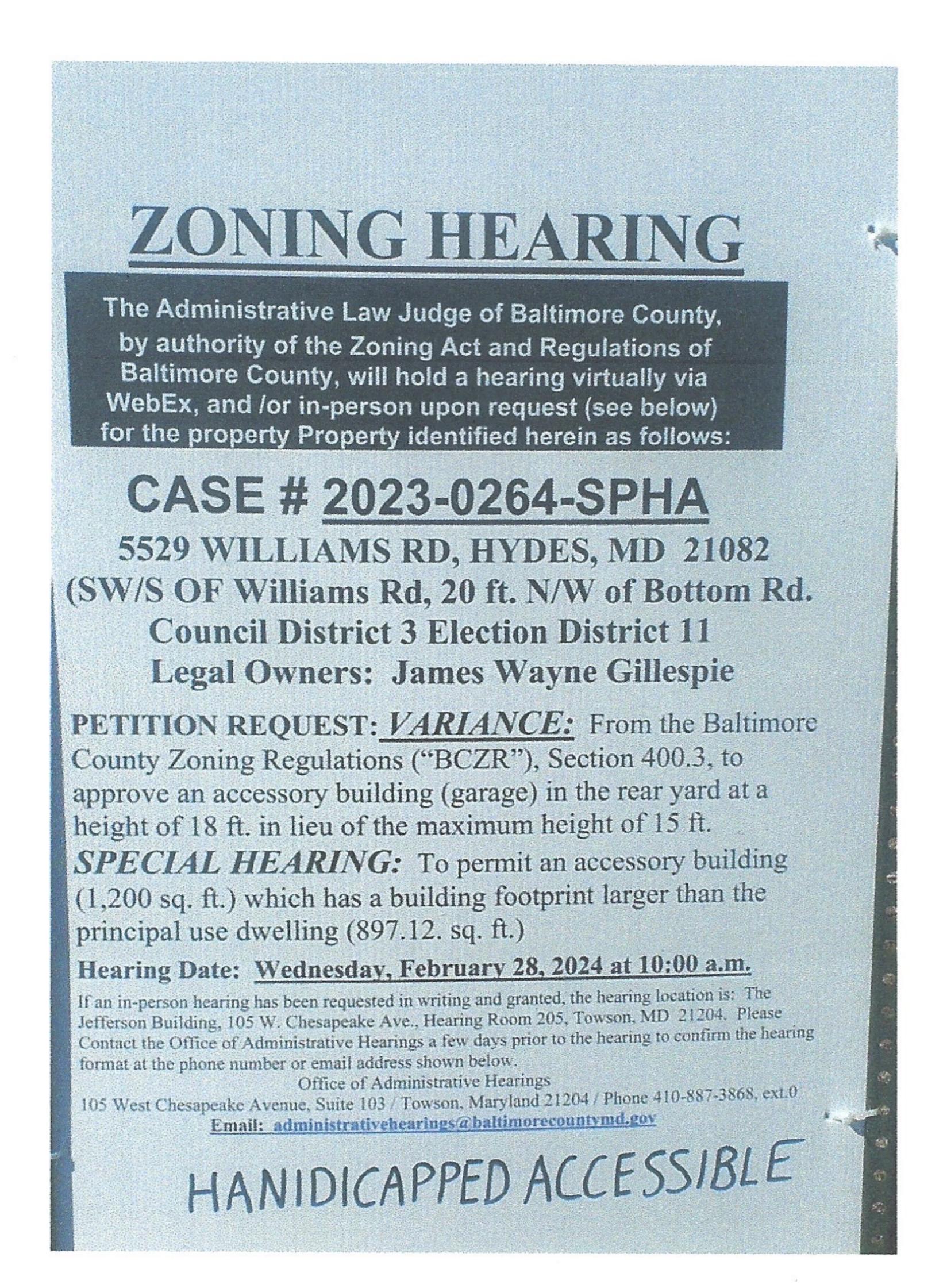
Case Number: 20233-0264-SPHA

Petitioner / Developer: JAMES WAYNE GILLESPIE

Date of Hearing: FEBRUARY 28, 2024

This is to certify under the penalties of perjury that the necessary sign(s) required by law were posted conspicuously on the property located at: 5529 WILLIAMS ROAD

The sign(s) were posted on: FEBRUARY 4, 2024



Signature of Sign Poster)

Linda O'Keefe

(Printed Name of Sign Poster)

523 Penny Lane

(Street Address of Sign Poster)

Hunt Valley, MD 21030

(City, State, Zip of Sign Poster)

410-666-5366

(Telephone Number of Sign Poster)

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: C. Pete Gutwald **DATE:** 1/25/2024

Director, Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

FROM: Steve Lafferty

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Case Number: 2023-0264-SPHA

INFORMATION:

Property Address: 5929 Williams Road **Petitioner:** James Wayne Gillespie

Zoning: RC-2

Requested Action: Special Hearing and Variance

The Department of Planning has reviewed the petition for the following:

Special Hearing - Under Section 500.7 of the Zoning Regulation of Baltimore County, to determine whether or not the Zoning Commissioner should approve an accessory building (1,200 sq. ft.) which has a building footprint larger than the principal use dwelling (897.12 sq. ft.)

Variance - From Section 400.3 Baltimore County Zoning Regulations to approve an accessory building (garage) in the rear yard at a height of 18 ft. in lieu of the maximum height of 15 ft.

The subject property is located in the Hydes area of Baltimore County. The property consists of 2.75 acres zoned RC-2. The property is improved with wooden barns and a 2-story red brick principal dwelling. Rural residential dwellings, forest conservation and agricultural purposes surround the property.

The RC-2 zone is a zoning district established to preserve the rural character of the area and promote low-density residential development. This district is intended to maintain the natural beauty and peacefulness of the surrounding countryside, while providing for compatible land uses and development patterns. The proposed relief is in harmony with the spirit and intent of the RC-2 zoning regulations. The requested use adheres to the zoning requirements and standards since it does not seek to alter the existing approved design. Therefore, the proposed use ensures that the rural character of the area remains uncompromised. The relief also maintains the low-density residential character of the area and upholds the requirements of the Section 1A01 BCZR.

The petitioner has indicated that they intend to present a demonstration of unreasonable hardship or practical difficulty as required to grant this variance at the hearing. No such unreasonable hardship or practical difficulty is readily identifiable through provided documents or accessible information. Yet, the information gathered through the review of potentially relevant guidance, such as community plans, does not require that the requested special hearing and variance be denied.

The Department of Planning does not object to the requested relief with the following conditions:

- 1. A sufficient demonstration of unreasonable hardship or practical difficulty is presented as determined by the Administrative Law Judge.
- 2. The Petitioners or subsequent owners shall not convert the subject accessory structure into a dwelling unit or apartment. The structure shall not contain any sleeping quarters, living area or kitchen facilities.
- 3. The accessory structure shall not be used for commercial or industrial purposes.

For further information concerning the matters stated herein, please contact Henry Ayakwah at 410-887-3482.

Prepared by:

Kryetle Patchak

Division Chief:

enifer G. Nugent

SL/JGN/KP

c: Stephen Perry

Joseph Wiley & Abigail Rogers, Community Planners Jeff Perlow, Zoning Review Kristen Lewis, Zoning Review Office of Administrative Hearings People's Counsel for Baltimore County The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) Bureau of Engineering and Construction offers the following comments following the review of the ZAC Agenda for the distribution meeting of January 19, 2024 and comments due January 26, 2024:

Case #2023-0264-SPHA, 5929 Williams Rd.: No Exception taken

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Inter-Office Correspondence



TO: Hon. Maureen E. Murphy; Chief Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings

FROM: Jeff Livingston, Department of Environmental Protection and

Sustainability (EPS) - Development Coordination

DATE: January 25, 2024

SUBJECT: DEPS Comment for Zoning Item # 2023-0264-SPHA

Address: 5929 WILLIAMS RD Legal Owner: James Wayne Gillespie

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of January 26, 2024.

<u>X</u> The Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability has no comment on the above-referenced zoning item.

Additional Comments:

Reviewer: Earl D. Wrenn

Real Property Data Search () Search Result for BALTIMORE COUNTY

View Map	View GroundR	ent Redemption	View GroundRe	nt Registration
Special Tax Rec	apture: None		or Emily higher accounts of the eventual and	_
Account Identifie	er: Dist	rict - 11 Account Number	er - 1107029610	
		Owner Informat	ion	
Owner Name:	A GILI	ESPIE JAMES WAYNE	Use: Principal Residence	RESIDENTIAL :YES
Mailing Address		9 WILLIAMS RD DES MD 21082-9526	Deed Reference:	/37262/ 00271
	Loca	tion & Structure In	formation	
Premises Addre		9 WILLIAMS RD DES 21082-9256	Legal Description:	2.758 AC 5929 WILLIAMS RD DICKERSON MANOR
Map: Grid: Parce	l: Neighborhood: Sub	division: Section: Block	: Lot: Assessment Yea	r: Plat No:
0054 0008 0318	11060050.04 0000)	1 2024	Plat Ref: 0030/0113
Town: None				
Primary Structur	re Built Above Grade L	iving Area Finished Bas	sement Area Property	Land Area County Use
1966	1,924 SF		2.7500 AC	04
StoriesBasemen	tType Ext	eriorQualityFull/Half Ba	thGarageLast Notice o	f Major Improvements
2 YES	STANDARD UNITSID	ING/4 2 full/ 1 half		7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7

Value Information

	Base Value	Value	Phase-in Asses	ssments
		As of 01/01/2021	As of 07/01/2023	As of 07/01/2024
Land:	141,000	141,000		
Improvements	218,700	218,700		
Total:	359,700	359,700	359,700	
Preferential Land:	0			

Transfer Information

Seller: GILLESPIE JAMES WAYNE	Date: 03/09/2016	Price: \$0
Type: NON-ARMS LENGTH OTHER	Deed1: /37262/ 00271	Deed2:
Seller: GILLESPIE KIMBERLY C	Date: 03/24/2003	Price: \$0
Type: NON-ARMS LENGTH OTHER	Deed1: /17717/ 00724	Deed2:
Seller: GILLESPIE SHIRLEY M	Date: 06/06/1995	Price: \$180,000
Type: ARMS LENGTH IMPROVED	Deed1: /11071/00719	Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments:	Class	07/01/2023	07/01/2024
County:	000	0.00	
State:	000	0.00	
Municipal:	000	0.00	0.00
Special Tay Recenture: None			

Special Tax Recapture: None

Homestead Application Information

Homestead Application Status: Approved 05/13/2014

Homeowners' Tax Credit Application Information

Homeowners' Tax Credit Application Status: Application Received Date: 07/24/2023

2023-0264-SPHA



Permits, Approvals and Inspections

111 W CHESAPEAKE AVE **TOWSON, MD 21204** 4108873353 WWW.BALTIMORECOUNTYMD.GO

Cashier: Christina F. 08-Jan-2024 8:54:57A

Transaction 102105 1 Petition Before ALJ

15 Total \$75.00 GREDIT CARD SALE \$75.00

\$75.00

VISA 6216

Retain this copy for statement validation

Station: Permit Processing - Mini

08-Jan-2024 8:55:22A \$75.00 | Method: EMV

VISA CREDIT

XXXXXXXXXXXXX6216 STEPHEN M PERRY

Reference ID: 400800555043

Auth ID: 05963G MID: ******2995 AID: A0000000031010 AthNtwkNm: VISA SIGNATURE

Clover ID: 670M07MNDP24W Payment VTD0MRN90BAWY

Clover Privacy Policy



Permits, Approvals and Inspections

111 W CHESAPEAKE AVE TOWSON, MD 21204 4108873353 https://www.baltimorecountymd vop.

Cashier: Jason S. 12-Oct-2023 8:36:17A

Transaction 101974 1 Petition Before ALJ

\$75.00

Total

\$75.00

CREDIT CARD SALE VISA 6216

\$75.00

Retain this copy for statement validation

Station: Permit Processing - Mini

12-Oct-2023 8:36:30A \$75.00 | Method: EMV VISA CREDIT XXXXXXXXXXXXXX6216 STEPHEN M PERRY Reference ID: 328500551286 Auth ID: 06840G MID: ******2995 AID: A0000000031010 AthNtwkNm: VISA SIGNATURE

> Clover ID: N5CC6NVJ4MC06 Payment NEPZC22NE8NYT

Clover Privacy Policy 2023-0264-5PLA



2023-0264-SPAA



2023-0264-5DHA



2023-0264-SAHA



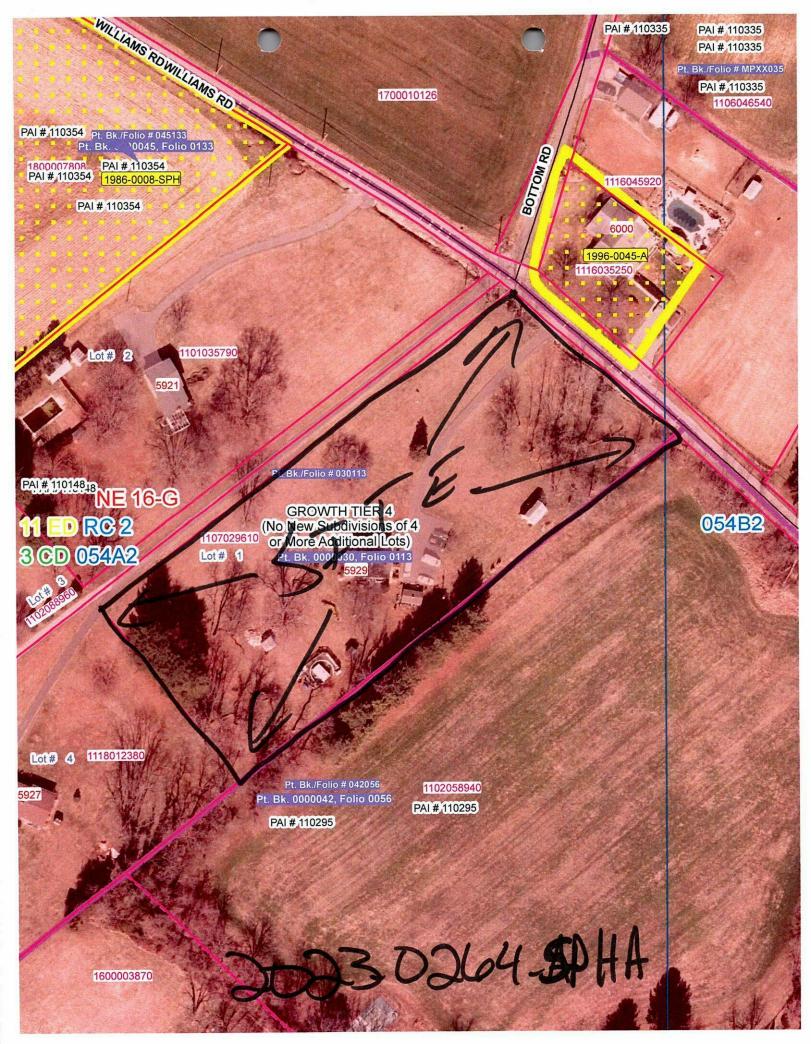
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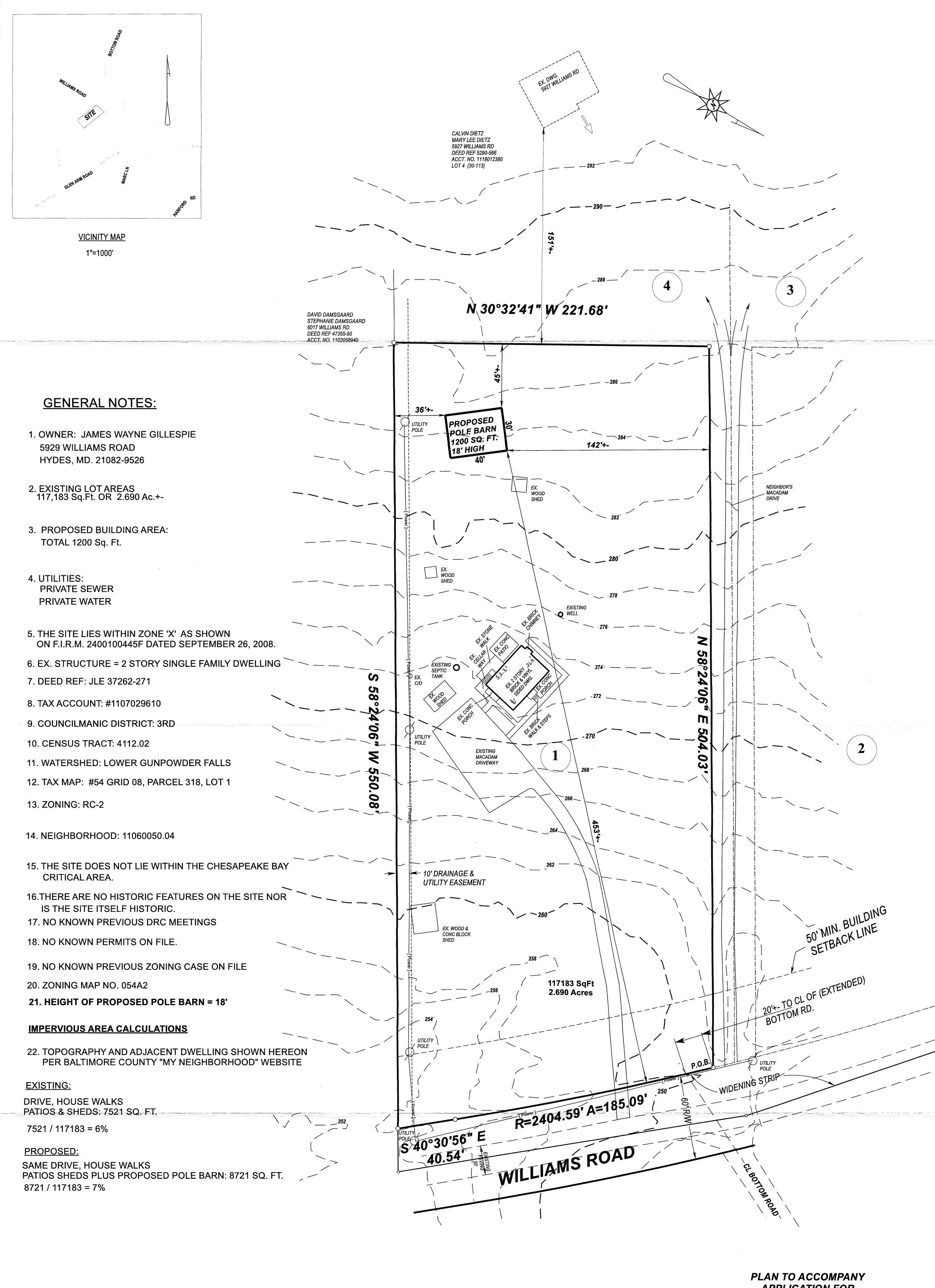


2023-0264-SPHA

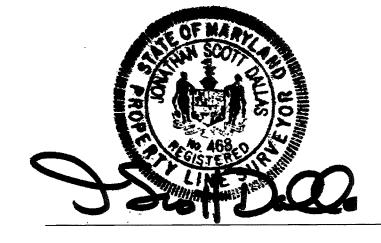


2023-0264-SAHA





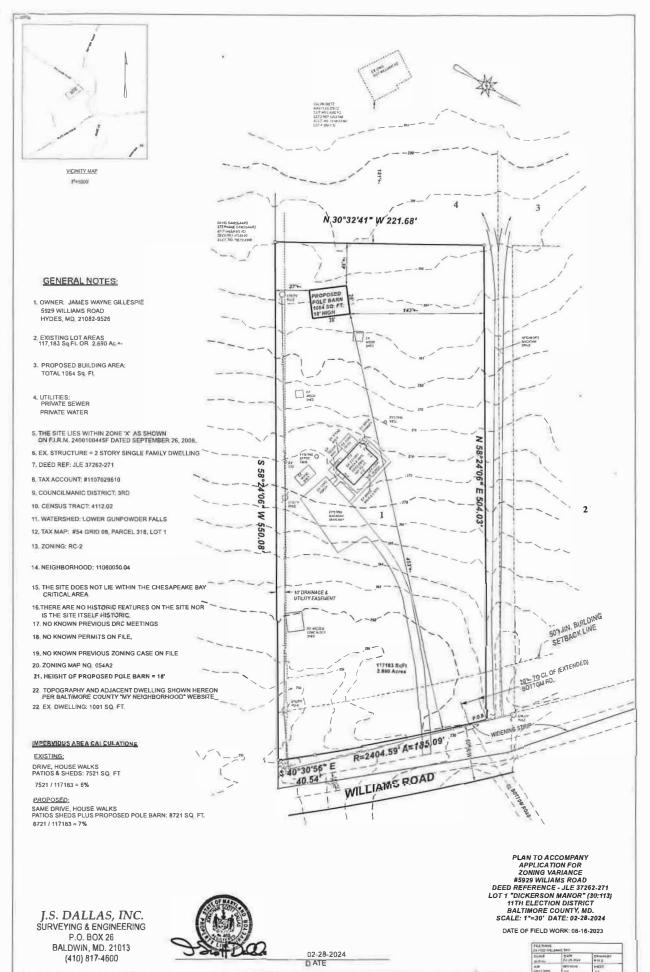
J.S. DALLAS, INC. SURVEYING & ENGINEERING P.O. BOX 26 BALDWIN, MD. 21013 (410) 817-4600



12-11-2023 DATE PLAN TO ACCOMPANY
APPLICATION FOR
ZONING VARIANCE
#5929 WILIAMS ROAD
DEED REFERENCE - JLE 37262-271
LOT 1 "DICKERSON MANOR" (30:113)
11TH ELECTION DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.
SCALE: 1"=30' DATE: 12-11-2023

DATE OF FIELD WORK: 08-16-2023

FILE NAME 23-1932 WILLIA	MS.TRV	
SCALE	DATE	DRAWN BY
30 Ft/In	12-11-2023	R.N.G.
JOB	REVISION	SHEET
GILLESPIE	1/1	1/1



Revised Site Plan

EXNO IA