

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

November 12, 2024

Cathy B. Galasso, Trustee – <u>cathygalasso@hotmail.com</u> Michael A. Galasso, Trustee 305 Overlook Drive Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093

RE:

Petition for Administrative Variance

Case No. 2024-0238-A

Property: 305 Overlook Drive

Dear Petitioners:

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.

Mauren E. Murphy

MAUREEN E. MURPHY Chief Administrative Law Judge

for Baltimore County

MEM:dlw Enclosure IN RE: PETITION FOR ADMIN. VARIANCE * BEFORE THE

(305 Overlook Drive)

8th Election District * OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE 3rd Council District

Cathy B. Galasso, Trustee * HEARINGS FOR

Michael A. Galasso, Trustee

* BALTIMORE COUNTY

Petitioners * CASE NO. 2024-0238-A

* * * * * * * * *

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") as a Petition for Administrative Variance filed by the legal owners of the property, Cathy B. Galasso and Michael A. Galasso, Trustees of the Cathy B. Galasso Living Trust dated January 25, 2006 ("Petitioners") for the property located at 305 Overlook Drive, Lutherville (the "Property"). The Petitioners are requesting Variance relief from the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR"), §1B02.3.B and §301.1.A, to permit an addition to an existing dwelling with a right-side yard setback of 35 ft. and a rear setback of 42 ft. in lieu of the required 50 ft. respectively, and to permit an open projection (porch) on the right side with a setback of 25 ft. in lieu of the required 37.5 ft. The Property is more fully depicted on the site plan which was marked and accepted into evidence (the "Site Plan"). (Pet. Ex. 1). Street view photographs of the Property were provided. (Pet. Exs. 2A-2D). Petitioners also submitted floor plans for the proposed addition and porches. (Pet. Ex. 3). Letters of support from adjoining property owners were contained in the file (Pet. Ex. 4).

Zoning Advisory Committee ("ZAC") comments submitted by Development Plans Review ("DPR")/Department of Public Works and Transportation ("DPWT") and Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability ("DEPS") which agencies did not oppose the requested relief.

The Petitioners having filed a Petition for Administrative Variance and the Property having been posted on October 19, 2024 and there being no request for a public hearing, a decision shall be rendered based upon the documentation presented. The Petitioners have filed the supporting affidavit as required by Baltimore County Code ("BCC"), §32-3-303.

The Property was previously adjudicated to be unique in Case No.: 1989-0177-A. As a result, the Property's physical characteristics have not changed, that factual finding is applicable to this Case under the doctrine of collateral estoppel. *Garrity v. Maryland State Bd. of Plumbing*, 447 Md. 359, 368 (2016). (See also *Colandrea v. Wilde Lake Community Ass'n, Inc.*, 361 Md. 391 (2000); *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission v. TKU Associates*, 281 Md. 1, 18-19 (1977)).

In regard to practical difficulty, the unique characteristics of the Property and placement of this 1959 home on the Property prohibit Petitioners from complying with the bulk regulations for the DR1 zone and therefore constructing a modest size addition and porches. Petitioners filed the Petition for Administrative Variance originally seeking side yard setback of 23 ft. along the Eastlake side of the Property. However, the Office of Zoning Review ("OZR") revised the zoning relief as the existing home did not meet the bulk regulations as is.

Based upon the information available, there is no evidence in the file to indicate that the requested Variances would adversely affect the health, safety or general welfare of the public. In the opinion of the Administrative Law Judge, the information, photographs, and Affidavit submitted provide sufficient facts that comply with the requirements of BCZR, §307.1. 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 support of the adjoining property owners.

Pursuant to the posting of the property and the provisions of both the BCC and the BCZR, and for the reasons given above, the requested Variance will be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, this <u>12th</u> day of **November**, **2024**, by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County, that the Petition for Variance relief from the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR"), §1B02.3.B and §301.1.A, to permit an addition to an existing dwelling with a right-side yard setback of 35 ft. and a rear setback of 42 ft. in lieu of the required 50 ft. respectively; to permit an open projection (porch) on the right side with a setback of 25 ft. in lieu of the required 37.5 ft. be, and they are hereby, **GRANTED**.

The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

- 1. Petitioners may apply for their appropriate permits and be granted same upon receipt of this Order; however, Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at their own risk until such time as the 30-day appellate process from this Order has expired. If, for whatever reason, this Order is reversed, Petitioners would be required to return, and be responsible for returning, said property to its original condition.
- 2. Building materials for the open projection (porch) addition shall be compatible with those of the existing principal dwelling.
- 3. The open projection (porch) addition shall remain open and shall not be enclosed at any time.
- 4. The Site Plan is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

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

MAUREEN E. MURPHY

Chief Administrative Law Judge

Mouren E. Murphy

for Baltimore County

MEM:dlw

PAID RECEIPT

DATE TIME 08/12/2024 08:53:41 TAX ID: 0803052890 CO. TR TAX RECORDATION TAX

\$10,771.95 \$3,702,50

Baltimore County, Maryland

After Recording, Return To: The Cathy B. Galasso Living Trust dated January 25, 2006 305 Overlook Drive Lutherville Timonium, MD 21093

Baltimore County Cir IMP FD SURE RECORDING FEE TR TAX STATE \$3,7 TOTAL Aug 13, 2024

Lakeside Title Company File No. MD83020-VI Tax ID # 08-0803052890

Insurer: Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company

Property Address: 305 Overlook Drive, Lutherville Timonium, MD 21093

THIS DEED, made this day of between Ola A. Selnes and William J. Klemer, GRANTORS, and Cathy B. Galasso and Michael A. Galasso, Trustees of the Cathy B. Galasso Living Trust dated January 25, 2006, as amended, GRANTEE.

WITNESSETH, That for and in consideration of the sum of Seven Hundred Forty Thousand One Hundred Thirty Dollars and No Cents (\$740,130.00), the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said Grantors do hereby grant and convey unto the said Cathy B. Galasso and Michael A. Galasso, Trustees of the Cathy B. Galasso Living Trust dated January 25, 2006, as amended, its successors and/or assigns, in fee simple, all that certain lot of ground lying and being situate in the County of Baltimore, State of Maryland, and described as follows, that is to say:

All that lot of ground situate in Baltimore County, Maryland and described as follows, that is to say:

BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED as Lot No. 152, as shown on a Plat entitled, "Plat of Section 4, Pot Spring", which plat is recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Plat Book GLB No. 25 folio 51.

BEING that property which, by Deed dated September 22, 1995, and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber 11236 at folio 735, was granted and conveyed by Ola A. Selnes and William J. Klemer, unto Ola A. Selnes and William J. Klemer, as joint tenants.

ALSO BEING that property, which by Deed dated June 17, 1994, and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber 10602 at folio 1, was granted and conveyed by Kirvan H. Pierson, III and Theresa Q. Pierson, unto Ola A. Selnes and William J. Klemer, as tenants in common.

TOGETHER WITH the buildings and improvements thereupon, and the rights, alleys, ways, waters, privileges, appurtenances and advantages to the same belonging, or in anywise appertaining.

BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS ZONING REVIEW OFFICE

ADMINISTRATIVE VARIANCE INFORMATION SHEET AND DATES

Case N	Number: 20	24-0238-	A Address SOS over	STOOK DE	
Conta	ct Person: _	Christin	er, Please Print Your Name		Phone Number: 410-887-3391
Filing	Date: 10-1	1-2024	Posting Date: 10-20	-2024 Clo	sing Date: 11-4-2024
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2.	file a forma	al request for a		erstand that ever	nt or owner) within 1,000 feet to n if there is no formal request for
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POT SPRING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF EXTERIOR CHANGE OR ADDITION

BACKGROUND: With one exception, the Deed and Agreement and By-laws governing your property require that all proposed exterior additions, changes or alterations to a house or lot be submitted in advance to the Civic Improvement Committee (CIC) for approval. The lone exception is when an owner is retreating by painting or otherwise a previously approved treatment with the same color, material, and material quality. For example, if you are repainting with the same color and quality paint, an Application need not be submitted.

quality. For example, if you are repainting with the same be submitted.	
This form is to address minor changes like painting or rep For major changes such as additions, you may be asked to architectural drawings and structure locations relative to a brief description of the work, product information shee be included. If you have any questions regarding the req guidance from the CIC.	property boundaries. To be considered by the CIC, ts. colors and other items describing the work must
APPLICANT IDENTIFYING INFORMATION:	11112 75/-1-911
Name: Cooky + Michael Galessa	Phone: 445. 136 6014
Address: 305 Overlook Brive	Date Submitted:
Address: 305 Overlook Srive Timonium Md 21093	Email: Oathygalasso Chot mail. Com
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGE: (Please print Briefly describe all proposed improvements, alterations,	or type)
Attach two paper copies or one PDF of descriptive informs sketches, photos, catalog illustrations, etc. showing the rebe used, along with a diagram showing where on your least two world like to add on 8'x 27'9.	ot any new structure is proposed). 5" addition to the Farticke Side of
NEIGHBORS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: You are request who will be able to see the improvement from thei awareness of your proposed change and does not const may contact the CIC to voice approval of or concerns we	riot. Signature by your respective approval on their part. Adjacent lot owners
Adjacent Property 1	Adjacent Property 2
Name: Alt Southell of	Name:
Address: 2306 Eastlake Rd	Address:
Signature: John Santulli	Signature:
Application for Approval of Exterior Change or Addition 1.1.24	

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Re: 230 acknow

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Janet

On Thurs

Hello Jar

We are b started the large or should be

Let me ki approval

Thanks s Cathy



POT SPRING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF EXTERIOR CHANGE OR ADDITION

BACKGROUND: With one exception, the Deed and Agreement and By-laws governing your property require that all proposed exterior additions, changes or alterations to a house or lot be submitted in advance to the Civic Improvement Committee (CIC) for approval. The lone exception is when an owner is retreating by painting or otherwise a previously approved treatment with the same color, material, and material quality. For example, if you are repainting with the same color and quality paint, an Application need not be submitted.

This form is to address minor changes like painting or replacement of siding, shingles, windows, or doors. For major changes such as additions, you may be asked to provide additional information such as architectural drawings and structure locations relative to property boundaries. To be considered by the CIC, a brief description of the work, product information sheets, colors and other items describing the work must be included. If you have any questions regarding the required submissions or the application process, seek guidance from the CIC.

APPLICANT IDENTIFYING INFORMATION:

Name: Address: 305 Over look Noise Date Submitted:

Letheville, And 21093 Email: Only galasso @ haterail. Com

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGE: (Please print or type)

Briefly describe all proposed improvements, alterations, or changes to your lot or home in the space below. Attach two paper copies or one PDF of descriptive information (typically plans and specifications, including sketches, photos, catalog illustrations, etc. showing the nature, kind, shape, color, dimensions, materials, to be used, along with a diagram showing where on your lot any new structure is proposed).

Use would like to add on an 8' x 27' 95" addition to the Eartlake side of the house we have spoken with Botto Co zoning to confirm we an more forward

NEIGHBORS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: You are requested to obtain the signatures of adjacent lot owners who will be able to see the improvement from their lot. Signature by your neighbors indicates an awareness of your proposed change and does not constitute approval on their part. Adjacent lot owners may contact the CIC to voice approval of or concerns with the proposed change in the subject property.

Adjacent Property 1

Name: Orlando Torres, Reth Elokstain Name:

Address: 302 Overlook Or Timonium Mi Address:

Signature: Signature:

Application for Approval of Exterior Change or Addition 1.1.24

<u>↓</u> Downloa	d ✓ Full screen 🔓 Print	団 Hide email 口	×
			Ack
	Name: Barb+ Greg Ackerman	Adjacent Property 4 Name:	
	Simon Parl I A de	Address:	
	OWNER(s) SIGNATURES: I am aware the Civic Improven of this request to act upon my request and shall plan accord	nent Committee has 60 days from the date of receipt	
	- Ppicant Signature	Date:	
	Co-Owner/ Applicant Signature Lichel R Molane	Date	
	ESTIMATED STARTING DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:		
	(After anneaed best ore)	MATED COMPLETION DATE:	
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	SUBMIT TO: The Pot Spring Community Association, PO Bo has 60 days to consider a request. If you would like an expe Janet Bostwick at PotSpringPresident@yahoo.com or Travis	ox 129, Timonium MD 21094. Note the Association	
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ADMINISTRATIVE ZONING PETITION

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE VARIANCE – OR – ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIAL HEARING
To be filed with the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

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ADMINISTRATIVE VARIANCE from Section(s) BCZR 1B02.3.B, 301.1.A To permit an addition to an e	xisting dwelling	with	a righ	t side	vard s	etba	ck of	35 f	t
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PUBLIC HEARING having been formally demanded and/or found to I	on required it is ore	lared b	, the Of	fine of	A desiries				
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Affidavit in Support of Administrative Variance (THIS AFFIDAVIT IS NOT REQUIRED FOR AN HISTORIC ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIAL HEARING)

The undersigned hereby affirms under the penalties of perjury and upon personal knowledge to the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County, that the information herein given is true and correct and that the undersigned is/are competent to testify in the event that a public hearing is scheduled in the future with regard thereto. In addition, the undersigned hereby affirms that the property is not the subject of an active Code Enforcement case and that the residential property described below is owned and occupied by the undersigned.

Address: 365 Overlook brive	Timonium	m		2/093
Print or Type Address of Property		у	State	Zip Code
Based upon personal knowledge, the follow Variance at the above address. (Clearly s	ring are the facts upon w tate practical difficulty	hich I/we base the re or hardship here)	quest for an Adm i	inistrative
See attached				
If additional space for the petition reque	1	ent is needed, label	la Orus	his Form) Trustee
Name - Print or Type		Michael A. (me - Print or Type	Palesso, trust	ce
The following information is t	o be completed by a	Notary Public of t	he State of Mar	yland
STATE OF MARYLAND, COUNTY OF BAI	_TIMORE, to wit:			
HEREBY CERTIFY, this day and for the County aforesaid, personally app	peared:	, <u>202 _</u> , be	fore me a Notary	of Maryland, ir
Print name(s) here:	alasso an	dmicho	9	
he Affiant(s) herein, personally known or sa	tisfactorily identified to m	ne as such Affiant(s).		Market Source
AS WITNESS my hand and Notaries Seal		- E	JENNA MARIE CICL Notary Public Paltimore County Man Commission Expires 09	iOSZ 7
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Variance Application for 305 Overlook Drive, Timonium, MD 21093

A. Uniqueness of the Property

The property at 305 Overlook Drive is unique due to its distinctive topography and architectural features. The lot is significantly sloped on the driveway side and has a retaining wall at the rear, limiting available flat space for expansion. This unique configuration creates challenges for potential additions, as any expansion to the left would obstruct garage access, while modifications to the rear would require extensive structural support. The original floorplan of the house further contributes to its uniqueness, posing additional constraints not imposed by the current homeowner.

B. Demonstrating Practical Difficulty or Unreasonable Hardship

- Reasonable Use: The current floorplan, featuring a centrally located staircase and fireplace, presents significant challenges in reconfiguring the interior for a larger kitchen and home office. This configuration restricts our ability to utilize the property effectively, constituting a practical difficulty.
- Peculiar Hardship: The difficulties we face are specific to our property due to its unique slope and layout, distinguishing it from other properties in the zoning district that do not share the same topographical challenges.
- Not Self-Imposed: The hardship we are experiencing is not a result of our own actions but stems from the inherent characteristics of the property itself.

Practical Difficulty Criteria:

Strict compliance with zoning regulations would significantly hinder our ability to create a functional office and kitchen space, making it unnecessarily burdensome to adapt the property for current living and working needs. We are seeking a variance for the setbacks for the proposed addition on the Eastlake side of the house (the right side) measuring 8' by 28', which includes a side porch measuring 4'x7' to provide cover from the rain at the side door, as well as a front porch measuring 5' by 10'. The addition would accommodate a home office and a larger kitchen. We are asking for a side setback of 23' variance along the side street of Eastlake Road. I don't believe we need a variance for the front porch.

Granting the variance will not cause substantial injustice to other property owners in the district, as the proposed addition is in harmony with existing neighborhood aesthetics, including many homes with front porches and similar features. The Eastlake side of the house is the only viable option for expansion, as adding to the driveway side would block garage access, and any addition to the rear would encounter further hardship due to uneven topography and a retaining wall.

The proposed relief can be structured to maintain the spirit of the zoning ordinance, ensuring public safety and welfare.

C. Compliance with Zoning Regulations

We affirm that the requested addition will not increase the residential density beyond what is permitted in the zoning regulations. The height of the structure will remain unchanged, and we

2024.0238-4

will use neutral colors and materials that blend seamlessly with the existing neighborhood character.

D. Harmony with Regulations

The proposed addition is designed to be in strict harmony with the spirit and intent of the zoning regulations, enhancing the property's usability while respecting the overall aesthetic of the community.

E. Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

We are committed to ensuring that our request for relief will not result in substantial injury to public health, safety, or general welfare. The planned addition aims to meet our needs as modern homeowners while aligning with the values of the surrounding neighborhood.

PART A: ZONING DESCRIPTION FOR:

305 OVERLOOK DRIVE, TIMONIUM, MB 21093

LOCATED AT THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF OVERLOOK DRIVE (RIGHT OF WAY 50') AND EASTLAKE (LIGHT OF WAY 50').

PART B:

BEING LOT # 152, BLOCK N/A, SECTION 4 IN THE SUBDIVISION OF POT SPRING AS RECORDED IN BALTIMORE COUNTY PLAT BOOK # 25, FOLIO # SI. CONTAINING 34,412 SQUARE FEET. LOCATED IN THE 8th ELECTION DISTRICT AND THE 3rd COUNCIL DISTRICT.

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: October 25, 2024

SUBJECT: DEPS Comment for Zoning Item # 2024-0238-A

Address: 305 OVERLOOK DRIVE Legal Owner: Cathy & Michael Galasso

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of October 28, 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

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Peter Gutwald, Director DATE: October 31, 2024

Department of Permits, Approvals

FROM: Vishnu Desai, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT: Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

Case 2024-0238-A

The Bureau of Development Plans Review has reviewed the subject zoning items and we have the following comments.

DPR: No comment.

DPW-T: No exception taken.

Landscaping: No comment.

Recreations & Parks: No comment LOS & No Greenways affected.

VKD: sc

Real Property Data Search () Search Result for BALTIMORE COUNTY

View Map	View GroundRent R	edemption	View Gro	undRent Registration
Special Tax Recapture:	None			
Account Identifier:	District - 08 Ac	count Number - 08	03052890	
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Owner Name:		HY B TRUSTEE HAEL A TRUSTEE	Use: Principal Resid	RESIDENTIAL dence:YES
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Improvements	300,100	383,000		
Total: Preferential Land:	441,400	524,300	496,667	524,300
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Seller: SELNES OLA A		Date: 08/13/2024		Princ: \$740 120
Type: ARMS LENGTH IM		Deed1: /49305/ 0034	17	Price: \$740,130 Deed2:
Seller: PIERSON KIRVAN	H,3RD [Date: 06/21/1994		Price: \$285,000
Type: ARMS LENGTH IM	PROVED [Deed1: /11236/ 0073	35	Deed2:
Seller: RAY JOSEPH HAI	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	Date: 08/29/1988		Price: \$240,560
Type: ARMS LENGTH IM	PROVED L	Deed1: /07956/ 0041	8	Deed2:
	Exe	mption Inform	ation	
Partial Exempt Assessm	ents:Class		07/01/2024	07/01/2025
County:	000		0.00	
State:	000		0.00	
Municipal:	000		0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00
Special Tax Recapture: 1	None			
	Homestea	d Application I	Information	
Homestead Application	Status: No Application	n		
_H	omeowners' Ta	x Credit Applic	cation Inform	ation
	Application Status:			















