

KATHERINE A. KLAUSMEIER County Executive

January 27, 2025

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

John Hanley – jhanley@bcps.org 530 Belfast Road Sparks, MD 21152

RE:

Petition for Variance

Case No. 2024-0272-A

Property: 530 Belfast Road

Dear Mr. Hanley:

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,

DEREK J. BAUMGARDNER Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

DJB:dlm Enclosure

c: Bruce E. Doak - bdoak@bruceedoaksonstructing.com

N RE: PETITION FOR VARIANCE (530 Belfast Road)

8th Election District 3rd Council District John Hanley Legal Owner * BEFORE THE

* OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE

* HEARINGS OF

* BALTIMORE COUNTY

Petitioner * CASE NO. 2024-0272-A

* * * * * * * *

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") as a Petition for Variance filed by John Hanley ("Petitioner") for the property located at 530 Belfast Road, (the "Property"). Petitioner is requesting Variance relief from Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR") Section 1A04.3.B.2.b to permit a proposed addition to an existing dwelling with a setback of 40 ft. in lieu of the required 50 ft.

A public hearing was conducted on January 27, 2025 using the virtual platform WebEx in lieu of an in-person hearing. The Petition was properly advertised and posted. The Petitioner attended the hearing and was assisted by Bruce E. Doak of Bruce E. Doak Consulting, LLC, a certified property line surveyor. There were no Protestants or other interested persons in attendance.

Petitioner submitted the following exhibits into the record: (1) Site Plan; (2) SDAT Report; (3) Subdivision Plat; (4) GIS aerial photograph; (5) Site Photographs (A-J); and (6) Elevations & Floor Plans. Zoning Advisory Committee ("ZAC") comments were received and admitted as exhibits from the following County agencies: (1) Department of Planning ("DOP"); (2) Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability ("DEPS"); and (3) Development Plans Review/Department of Public Works and Transportation ("DPR/DPWT"). County agency

comments do not indicate any objections to the requested relief.

Findings of Fact

The Property is approximately 2.133 acres in land area and is zoned RC 5. It is surrounded by mostly residential properties with adjacent agricultural uses and is currently improved with a single-family dwelling with a partial foundation originally constructed in 1916 as well as existing accessory structures. *See* Pet. Exhibits 1, 2, 4 & 5. The proposed two-story addition to the single-family dwelling will be 26 ft. x 26 ft. and will be attached to the southern portion of the structure. Pet. Exhs. 1 & 6. The property is irregularly shaped and the existing single-family dwelling is located in close proximity to the southwestern property line. *Id.* Consideration of the existing floor plan of the home was a strong factor in siting the addition. The property has an existing septic reserve area and forest buffer to the north restricting the buildable areas of the lot and Mr. Doak stated that the proposed location was selected as it best fit the layout of the existing home and the site constraints of the lot. The proposed addition will be constructed using design and materials to compliment and match the existing home. Pet. Exh. 6.

Conclusions of Law

Pursuant to BCZR Section 307.1, "...the [Administrative Law Judge] shall have ... the power to grant variances from height and area regulations, from off-street parking regulations, and from sign regulations only in cases where special circumstances or conditions exist that are peculiar to the land or structure which is the subject of the variance request and where strict compliance with the Zoning Regulations for Baltimore County would result in practical difficulty or unreasonable hardship ... Furthermore, any such variance shall be granted only if in strict harmony with the spirit and intent of said height, area, off-street parking or sign regulations, and only in such manner as to grant relief without injury to public health, safety and general

welfare...". 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).

I find that this property is unique because of its irregular shape and special circumstances and conditions exist that are peculiar to this land and structure as the existing structure is located in close proximity to the southwest property line and strict compliance with yard setback regulations contained in the Zoning Regulations for Baltimore County would result in practical difficulty. I further find that the requested Variance relief can be granted in harmony with the spirit and intent of BCZR and without injury to the health, safety or general welfare, particularly in light of the lack of opposition, as the property is of sufficient size and location with forest, tree, and fence buffers to mitigate impacts. *See* Pet. Exh. 5.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, this <u>27th</u> day of **January**, **2025**, by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County, that the Petition for Variance pursuant to BCZR, Section 1A04.3.B.2.b to permit a proposed addition to an existing dwelling with a setback of 40 ft. in lieu of the required 50 ft., be, and 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 Site Plan (Pet. Ex. 1) is attached hereto and incorporated herein in its entirety; and

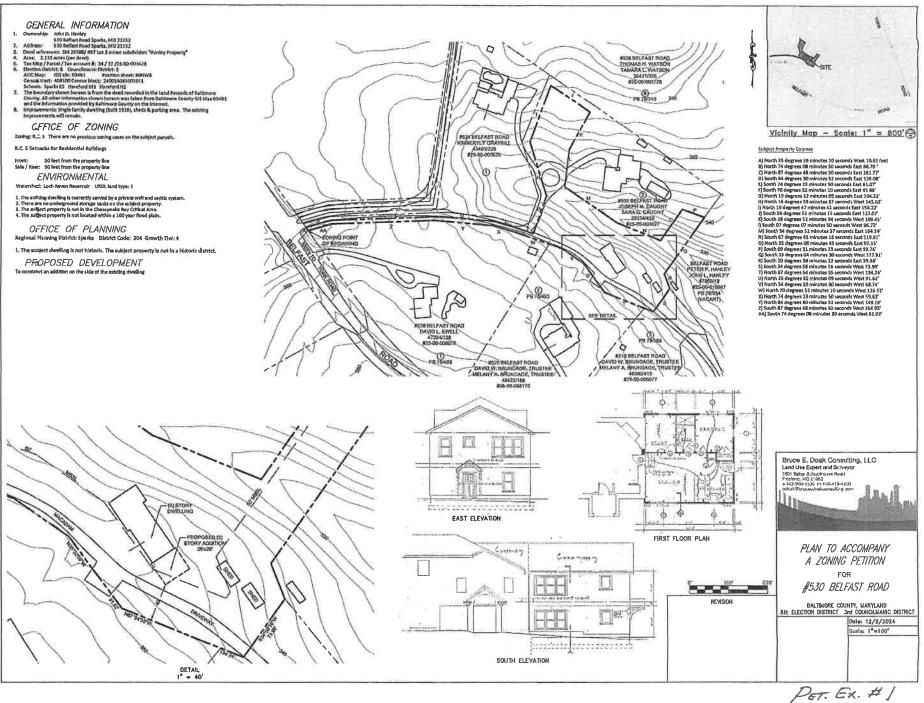
3. Petitioner must comply with Planning comments, a copy of which is attached hereto.

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

DEREK J. BAUMGARDNER

Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

DJB/dlm



BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

T0:

C. Pete Gutwald

DATE: 1/7/2025

Director, Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

FROM:

Steve Lafferty

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Case Number: 2024-0272-A

INFORMATION:

Property Address: 530 Belfast Road Petitioner:

John D. Hanley

Zoning:

RC 5

Requested Action: Variance

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

Variance – To permit a proposed addition to an existing dwelling with a setback of 40 feet in lieu of the required 50-foot setback per Section 1A04.3.B.2.b.

The proposed site is a 2.133-acre property zoned RC 5. It is surrounded by mostly residential properties and is currently improved with existing structures. The applicant proposes an addition to the existing residential home.

The existing land use is currently a residence with ancillary structures zoned RC 5. The addition is proposed to be a 26X26 two-story addition. The requested zoning relief, as said in above request, appears to have minimal impact son adjacent properties and the public right of way. It does not encroach upon or impede vehicle's ability to utilize the existing access. It is understood that all the structures on site are existing and are to remain. The proposal does not counter the current fabric and character of the existing neighborhood and achieves a desired design with the assistance of minimal relief.

Planning has no objections to the requested setback relief as the new addition's location does not present any adverse impacts on the health, safety, and wellness of the community.

The Department is in support of the requested relief conditioned upon the following:

- Final architectural designs are submitted upon applying for permits to ensure the addition will meet the RC 5 performance standards outlined in the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations Section I A04.4.
- The development meets all applicable regulations for RC 5 zoned properties.
- Any additional relief deem necessary by the Administrative Law Judge.

For further information concerning the matters stated herein, please contact Brett M. Williams at 410-887-3482.

Prepared by:

Krystle Patchak

SL/JGN/KP

c: Bruce E. Doak
Joseph Wiley, Community Planner
Jeff Perlow, Zoning Review
Kristen Lewis, Zoning Review
Office of Administrative Hearings
People's Counsel for Baltimore County

Division Chief:

enifer G. Nugent



PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

To be filed with the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

To the Office of Administrative Law of Baltimore County for the property located at:

Address 530 BELFAST ROAD which is presently zoned RC5

Deed References: Z6588 / 497 10 Digit Tax Account # 25 0 00 0 3 6 2 8

Property Owner(s) Printed Name(s) JOHN D. HANCEY

(SELECT THE HEARING(S) BY MARKING X AT THE APPROPRIATE SELECTION AND PRINT OR TYPE THE PETITION REQUEST)

The undersigned legal owner(s) of the property situate in Baltimore County and which is described in the description and plan attached hereto and made a part hereof, hereby petition for:

a Special Hearing under Section 500.7 of the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to determine whether
or not the Zoning Commissioner should approve

2. a Special Exception under the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County to use the herein described property for

3. X a Variance from Section(s)

SEE ATTACHED PAGE

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)

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE HEARING

Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by the zoning regulations.

I, or we, agree to pay expenses of above petition(s), advertising, posting, etc. and further agree to and are to be bounded 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).

Contract Purchaser/Lessee:	Legal Owners (Petitioners):
	JOHN D. HANCEY 1
Name-Type or Print	Name#1 - Type or Print Name #2 - Type or Print
Signature	Signature #1 Signature #2
	530 BELFAST ROAD SPARKS MO
Mailing Address City	State Mailing Address City State
	21152 1410-456-5212 11
Zip Code Telephone # Email A	Address Zip Code Telephone # // Email Address
Attorney for Petitioner:	Representative to be contacted: Bruce E. DOAK CONSULTING U.C. Bruce E. DOAK CONSULTING U.C.
Name- Type or Print	Name – Type or Print
Signature	Signature 3801 BANER SCHOOLHOUSE ROSO FREELAND ME
Mailing Address City	State Mailing Address City State
	210.53 410-419-4906
Zip Code Telephone # Email A	
CASE NUMBER 2024 0202- A Filing	Do Not Schedule Dates: Reviewer

Zoning Hearing Petitions Being Requested

Variance to permit a proposed addition to an exiting dwelling with a setback of 40 feet in lieu of the required 50 foot setback per Section 1A04.3.B.2.b BCZR

2024.0272-A



Zoning Description 530 Belfast Road- 2.133 Acres Eighth Election District Third Councilmanic District Baltimore County, Maryland

(VARIABLE WUTY)

Beginning at a point on the northeastern most right of way line of Belfast Road, said point being 3,325 feet, more or less, lying along said right of way line from the centerline of York Road (66' WØ€)

thence running on said right of way line and running with and binding on the outlines of the subject property 1) North 35 degrees 36 minutes 10 seconds West 10.62 feet, thence leaving Belfast Road and continuing to run with and bind on the outlines of the subject property, the twenty-six following courses and distances, viz.

- 2) North 74 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds East 66.70 '
- 3) North 87 degrees 48 minutes 50 seconds East 281.77'
- 4) South 84 degrees 30 minutes 52 seconds East 136.08'
- 5) South 74 degrees 23 minutes 50 seconds East 61.07'
- 6) South 70 degrees 52 minutes 10 seconds East 45.86'
- 7) North 19 degrees 12 minutes 05 seconds East 104.23'
- 8) North 16 degrees 53 minutes 37 seconds West 145.03'
- 9) North 19 degrees 47 minutes 41 seconds East 156.22'
- 10) South 54 degrees 51 minutes 15 seconds East 122.07'
- 11) South 28 degrees 52 minutes 34 seconds West 109.45'
- 12) South 07 degrees 07 minutes 50 seconds West 96.72'
- 13) South 54 degrees 52 minutes 37 seconds East 164.14'
- 14) South 67 degrees 41 minutes 16 seconds East 119.91'
- 15) North 35 degrees 08 minutes 45 seconds East 97.15'
- 16) South 69 degrees 31 minutes 23 seconds East 59.76'
- 17) South 35 degrees 04 minutes 30 seconds West 177.91'
- 18) South 20 degrees 38 minutes 22 seconds East 39.38'
- 19) South 34 degrees 58 minutes 16 seconds West 73,96'
- 20) North 67 degrees 54 minutes 35 seconds West 134.24'
- 21) North 35 degrees 32 minutes 09 seconds West 91.62'
- 22) North 54 degrees 55 minutes 30 seconds West 68.74'
- 23) North 70 degrees 52 minutes 10 seconds West 126.32'
- 24) North 74 degrees 23 minutes 50 seconds West 59.63'
- 25) North 84 degrees 30 minutes 52 seconds West 149.19'
- 26) South 87 degrees 48 minutes 50 seconds West 264.92' and
- 27) South 74 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds West 61.92' to the point of beginning.

Containing 2.133 acres of land, more or less.

This description is part of a zoning hearing petition and is not intended for any conveyance purposes.

> Bruce E. Doak Consulting, LLC 3801 Baker Schoolhouse Road Freeland, MD 21053 410-419-4906 cell / 443-900-5535 office bdoak@bruceedoakconsulting.com

2024-0272-A

DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS ZONING REVIEW OFFICE

ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ZONING HEARINGS

The <u>Baltimore County Zoning Regulations</u> (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 fifteen (15) 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 Advertising:
Case Number: 2024-0272-A
Property Address: 530 BELFAST ROAD
Property Description: 2.133 ACRE PARCEL OF LAND - NORTH SIDE OF
BELFAST ROAD 3100' & WEST OF YORK ROAD
Legal Owners (Petitioners): Joun D. Hancey
Contract Purchaser/Lessee: N/A
PLEASE FORWARD ADVERTISING BILL TO:
Name: BRUCE E. DOAK
Company/Firm (if applicable): BRUCE E. DOMK CONSULTING LLC
Address: 386/ BAKER SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD
FREELAND MO 21053

OFFIC	CE OF BU	IDGET AN	MARYLAN ID FINANC I RECEIPT	E		No.	234	700	
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For HANGEY - ZONING PET. FEE		NP

Real Property Data Search () Search Result for BALTIMORE COUNTY

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Special Tax Recapture:								
Account Identifier:	Dietrio	t - 08 Account Nu	mber - 2500003628					
		Owner Inform	nation					
Owner Name:	HANLE	EY JOHN D	Use: Principal Resid	RESIDENTIAL ence: YES	\			
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	Locati	on & Structure	Information					
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Town: None								
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		Value Inform	ation					
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			As of	As of				
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Improvements	127,100	178,200						
Total:	321,800	372,900	355,867	372,900	372 900			
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Seller: HANLEY JOHN LA	WRENCE	Date: 01/18/200	8	Price: \$275,000				
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State:	000		0.00					
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BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Peter Gutwald, Director DATE: December 30, 2024

Department of Permits, Approvals

FROM: Vishnu Desai, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT: Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

Case 2024-0272-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



CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

January 07, 2025
amended for second inspection
Re: Zoning Case No. 2024-0272-A Legal Owner: John Hanley Hearing date: January 27, 2025
Baltimore County Department of Permits, Approvals & Inspections County Office Building 111 West Chesapeake Avenue, Room 111 111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, MD 21204
Attention: Jeff Perlow
Ladies and Gentlemen,
This letter is to certify under the penalties of perjury that the two necessary signs required by law were posted conspicuously on the property located at 530 Belfast Road .
The signs were initially posted on January 2, 2025.
The subject property was also inspected on
Sincerely,
B SOI

See the attached sheets for the photos of the posted signs

Bruce E. Doak

MD Property Line Surveyor #531

Bruce E. Doak Consulting, LLC 3801 Baker Schoolhouse Road Freeland, MD 21053 410-419-4906 cell / 443-900-5535 office bdoak@bruceedoakconsulting.com

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: December 30, 2024

SUBJECT: DEPS Comment for Zoning Item # 2024-0272-A

Address: 53 BELFAST ROAD

Legal Owner: John Hanley

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of December 30, 2024.

X 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 INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: C. Pete Gutwald DATE: 1/7/2025

Director, Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

FROM: Steve Lafferty

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Case Number: 2024-0272-A

INFORMATION:

Property Address: 530 Belfast Road **Petitioner:** John D. Hanley

Zoning: RC 5 **Requested Action:** Variance

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

Variance – To permit a proposed addition to an existing dwelling with a setback of 40 feet in lieu of the required 50-foot setback per Section 1A04.3.B.2.b.

The proposed site is a 2.133-acre property zoned RC 5. It is surrounded by mostly residential properties and is currently improved with existing structures. The applicant proposes an addition to the existing residential home.

The existing land use is currently a residence with ancillary structures zoned RC 5. The addition is proposed to be a 26X26 two-story addition. The requested zoning relief, as said in above request, appears to have minimal impact son adjacent properties and the public right of way. It does not encroach upon or impede vehicle's ability to utilize the existing access. It is understood that all the structures on site are existing and are to remain. The proposal does not counter the current fabric and character of the existing neighborhood and achieves a desired design with the assistance of minimal relief.

Planning has no objections to the requested setback relief as the new addition's location does not present any adverse impacts on the health, safety, and wellness of the community.

The Department is in support of the requested relief conditioned upon the following:

- Final architectural designs are submitted upon applying for permits to ensure the addition will meet the RC 5 performance standards outlined in the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations Section 1 A04.4.
- The development meets all applicable regulations for RC 5 zoned properties.
- Any additional relief deem necessary by the Administrative Law Judge.

For further information concerning the matters stated herein, please contact Brett M. Williams at 410-887-3482.

Prepared by:

, ,

SL/JGN/KP

c: Bruce E. Doak
Joseph Wiley, Community Planner
Jeff Perlow, Zoning Review
Kristen Lewis, Zoning Review
Office of Administrative Hearings
People's Counsel for Baltimore County

Division Chief:

Jenifer G. Nugent



