

Minutes - Woodbury County Board of Adjustment Meeting – November 1, 2021

The Board of Adjustment meeting convened on the 1st of November 2021 at 6:00 PM in the first-floor board room of the Woodbury County Courthouse. The meeting was also made available for public access via teleconference.

BA Members Present : Tom Thiesen, Bob Brouillette, Ashley Christensen
County Staff Present: Dan Priestley, Dawn Norton
Public Present: Wesley Pierce, Melonie Pierce

Call to Order

Chair Tom Thiesen formally called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda

No public comment for non-agenda items.

Approval of Minutes

The August 2, 2021 minutes were approved. Motion by Christensen to approve; second by Brouillette. Motion passed 3-0.

Variance Setback Reduction Request (Kathleen Sonksen)

Priestley presented the staff report for Kathleen Sonksen's variance application for a 20 ft front yard setback reduction from 100 ft to 80 ft to facilitate the construction of a new single-family dwelling for Wesley and Melanie Pierce. The hardship is a result of significant changes in elevation as well as an unusual right-of-way location. The property is identified as Parcel 86430330000; Township: T86N R43W (Oto); Section: 4; Quarter: SE ¼ SW ¼; Zoning District Agricultural Preservation (AP); Floodplain District: Zone X (Not in Floodplain); Address: 3885 290th Street, Oto, IA 51044. It is the recommendation of staff to approve the variance. Brouillette asked about land owner relationship to the Pierce's, Wesley Pierce stated Kathleen Sonksen is his mother-in-law. New home would be located on a flat area slightly back from the original homes' location. Woodbury County Engineer's Office has no objection to the setback variance. Brouillette stated this request is a good example the intended use of a variance. A motion was made by Brouillette to close the public hearing; second by Christensen. Motion passed 3-0. A motion was made by Brouillette to recommend approval the variance request for reduction of front yard setback from 100 ft to 80 ft; Second by Christensen; Motion passed 3-0.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda

None

Staff Update

Gleiser has had conversations with the Assistant Co. Attorney regarding adoption of by-laws to allow members to participate in electronic meetings in instances when members cannot attend meetings in person, such as travel or illness. Brouillette suggested language to include number of in-person meeting required and term limits. Christensen inquired about timeline for draft; Gleiser stated he will email a rough draft, ask for feedback and present it to at the next meeting.

Commissioner Comment or Inquiry

None.

Adjourn

Christensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting; second by Brouillette. Motion passed 3-0. The meeting concluded at 6:20 pm.