# Zoning Board of Appeals 

February 23, 2022 Regular Meeting

## STAFF REPORT

## Subject: ZBA22-003; 140 Hill Street

## Summary:

Mark Schroeder, property owner, is requesting a 15-foot variance from Section 5.20 .4 (B) Conflicting Land Use Buffers. The property is zoned R4C, Multiple Family Dwelling. This site layout utilizes a shared driveway along the western border with the adjacent property at 132 Hill Street, where a conflicting land use buffer is required.

## Background:

The petitioner seeks approval to demolish the existing 3,266 -square foot duplex and construct a new 5,600 -square foot four-unit apartment building with four bedrooms each. The site is $9,600-$ square feet and allows for a maximum of four units. The Unified Development Code (UDC) was recently amended that excludes four-unit complexes from requiring site plan approval. If this variance is granted, the petitioner may start applying for permits.

The adjacent 132 Hill Street project received site plan approval in 2018 for a five-unit complex and received a variance from the ZBA on October 24, 2018 from the eastern property line CLUB where the shared driveway exists.

## Description and Discussion:

A 15 -foot wide conflicting land use buffer (CLUB) is required along both sides of the site and the rear of the property as this site is adjacent to residential uses. Two of the three sides meet the CLUB requirements for width and landscaping. The petitioner is requesting a variance from the western side CLUB requirement as this is the location of the existing shared driveway with 132 Hill Street.

## Standards for Approval- Variance

The Zoning Board of Appeals has all the power granted by State law and by Section 5.29.12, Application of the Variance Power from the City of Ann Arbor Zoning Ordinance. The following criteria shall apply:
(a). That the practical difficulties are exceptional and peculiar to the property of the person requesting the variance, and result from conditions which do not exist generally throughout the City.

The applicant states that the 15 -foot buffer requirement on each side of the lot (30 feet total) results in a 36 foot wide building envelope taking away nearly half of their building envelope.

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(b). That the practical difficulties will result from a failure to grant the variance, include substantially more than mere inconvenience, inability to attain a higher financial return, or both.

Without the variance, the reduced building envelope makes it extremely difficult to develop the property for multiple-family.
(c). That allowing the variance will result in substantial justice being done, considering the public benefits intended to be secured by this Chapter, the individual hardships that will be suffered by a failure of the Board to grant a variance, and the rights of others whose property would be affected by the allowance of the variance.

A shared driveway between 132 and 140 Hill Street exists. The variance allows for a shared driveway with the adjacent property which eliminates the need for a curb cut and minimizes impervious surface.
(d). That the conditions and circumstances on which the variance request is based shall not be a self- imposed hardship or practical difficulty.

The variance request is not self-imposed as the narrow 66 -foot lot width is an existing condition along with the location of the existing shared driveway.
(e). A variance approved shall be the minimum variance that will make possible a reasonable use of the land or structure.

The variance being requested is the minimum necessary to allow for a shared driveway. The applicant will install the 15-foot wide buffer along the east and south sides of the property, containing a mixture of 15 trees and numerous shrubs in the buffer.

Respectfully submitted,


Chris Cheng
City Planner




# ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPLICATION 

City of Ann Arbor Planning Services
City Hall: 301 E Huron Street Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647
Phone: 734-794-6265 Fax: 734-794-8460 Email:
planning@a2gov.ora

## PROPERTY INFORMATION

## ADDRESS OF PROPERTY

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09-09-32-111-019
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mark. Schroeder 22e gmaih.copn

NAME

mark. schruederzz@gmail.com
APPLICANT'S RELATIONSHIP TO PROPERTY

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(734) 476-8023
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## REQUEST INFORMATION

variance request
Complete Section 1 of this application

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

One hard copy application complete will all required attachments must be submitted. Digital copies of supportive materials included in the submitted hard copy will only be accepted in PDF format by email or accompanying the hard copy application on a USB flash drive.
Required Attachments:
Boundary Survey of the property including all existing and proposed structures, dimensions of property, and area of property.
Building floor plans showing interior rooms, including dimensions.
$\square$ Photographs of the property and any existing buildings involved in the request.
$\square$ REQUEST TO ALTER A NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE Complete Section 2 of this application

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All information and materials submitted with this application are true and correct.

Permission is granted to City of Ann Arbor Planning Services and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals to access the subject property for the purpose of reviewing the variance request.

Property Owner Signature :


Date:


## Section 1 city of Ann Arbor Planning Services - Zoning Board of Appeals Application

## VARIANCE REQUEST

ARTICLE(S) AND SECTION(S) FROM WHICH A VARIANCE IS REQUESTED: (Example: Article 3, Section 5.26)
 REQUIRED DIMENSION: (Example: 40' front setback) $\quad$ PROPOSED DIMENSION: (Example: 32 foot 8 inch front setback ) Feet: Inches: $\sim 15^{-c} \quad$ Feet: Inches: ${ }^{\circ}$

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK AND REASON FOR VARIANCE:

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Hill. Both are zoned d $4 C$ and variance was granted to
i 32 Hilly using land owned by 140 Hill 5 . The The shored The City of Ann Arbor Zoning Board of Appeals has the powers granted by State law and City Code Chapter 55, Section 5:29. A variance may be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals only in cases involving practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships when all of the following statements are found to be true. Please provide a complete response to each of the statements below.
The alleged practical difficulties are exceptional and peculiar to the property of the Person requesting the variance, and result from conditions that do not exist generally throughout the City.

The alleged practical difficulties that will result from a failure to grant the variance, include substantially more than mere inconvenience, inability to attain a higher financial return, or both.

Allowing the variance will result in substantial justice being done, considering the public benefits intended to be secured by this chapter, the practical difficulties that will be suffered by a failure of the Board to grant a variance, and the rights of others whose property would be affected by the allowance of the variance.

The conditions and circumstances on which the variance request is based shall not be a self-imposed practical difficulty.
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A variance approved shall be the minimum variance that will make possible a reasonable use of the land or structure.
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new four-unit
apartment


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Properties
new four-unit apartment
building



Mahalo
Properties



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Mahalo
Properties
new four-unit
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