TOWN OF ALTON - ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES September 5, 2024

otember 5, 2024 APPROVED 10-3-2024

1	TOWN OF ALTON
2	ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
3	PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
4	Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.
5	Alton Town Hall
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7	MEMBERS PRESENT
8	Tom Lee, Vice Chair
9	Frank Rich, Member
10	Paul LaRochelle, Selectman's Representative
11	Joe Mankus, Alternate Member
12	Paul Monzione, Alternate Member
13 14	OTHERS PRESENT
15	Norma Ditri, Code Enforcement Officer
16	John Bisson, Esq.,
17	Tom Varney, Varney Engineering, LLC
18	Josh Thibault, Varney Engineering LLC
19	Ryan Heath, owner
20	Keith Derosa, applicant
21	Daniel Lang, owner
22	Mark & Jana Mowers, owners
23	Timothy Barchard, owner
24	Ethan Wood, Esq.
25	Pat Heffernan
26	John Miles, owner
27	Cayleen Coculo, applicant
28	Fred & Heidi Rogers, abutters
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30	CALL TO ORDER
31	Vice Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
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33	INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS
34	Roll Call was taken for the Board members and individuals present at Town Hall.
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36	APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES
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38	MOTION: To appoint Mr. Monzione and Mr. Mankus to sit on the Board as voting
39	members for this meeting. Motion by Mr. LaRochelle. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed
40	unanimously.
41	STATEMENT OF THE APPEAL PROCESS
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43 44	The purpose of this hearing is to allow anyone concerned with an Appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment to present evidence for or against the Appeal. This evidence may be in the form of
44	an opinion rather than an established fact, however, it should support the grounds that the Board
TJ	an opinion radici dian an established ract, nowever, it should support the grounds that the board

- must consider when making a determination. The purpose of the hearing is not to gauge the 46
- sentiment of the public or to hear personal reasons why individuals are for or against an appeal, 47
- but all facts and opinions based on reasonable assumptions will be considered. In the case of an 48
- appeal for a Variance, the Board must determine facts bearing upon the five criteria as set forth 49
- in the State's Statutes. For a Special Exception, the Board must ascertain whether each of the 50
- standards set forth in the Zoning Ordinance have been or will be met. 51

52 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Ms. Ditri noted there is a correction to Case Z24-38, it should be Article 300 Section 320 J.3, 4, 53
- 54 5, and 6.

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- MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Mr. Rich. Second by Mr.
- LaRochelle. Motion passed unanimously. 57

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Vice Chair Lee stated the Board will do their best to get through all the cases on the Agenda but no cases will be started after 10:00PM.

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CONTINUED APPLICATIONS 1.

Case #Z24-28	Map 36 Lot 12	Administrative Appeal
Shawn Dunphy, Esq. Agent for Steven	115 Mount Major	Residential Zone (R)
Boccelli, Owner	Highway	

An Administrative Appeal is requested in reference to a letter regarding unpermitted Short Term Rental.

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Vice Chair Lee read the public notice into the record. The Board reviewed the application for completeness.

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John Bisson, Esq., representative for the applicant, stated additional documents have been submitted as requested at the last meeting. He stated there are two issues including the short term rental and the accusations by the Code Enforcement Officer that there has been obnoxious behavior by the renters and property owner. Ms. Bisson presented information showing the property has been used as a short term rental, pre-dating the March 2023 ordinance amendment. He stated the use was preexisting so therefore permitted; he outlined the conditions contained within the ordinance and stated the none of the conditions of Article 321, impact the conclusion

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of Section A, for a lawful use which shall be allowed to continue. 76

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Mr. Bisson stated the conclusion by the Code Enforcement Officer in the Cease and Desist letter of July 1, 2024, that there has been obnoxious behavior, but that term is not defined in the ordinance. He stated a seven police reports were presented at the last meeting however, three were responses to the property at the request of the property owner; the second series of reports are limited and deal with a complaint from a neighbor about a pile of dirt in the driveway and the police responded to that; a neighbor called to have the people charged for going on his dock. However, Mr. Boccelli advised at that time that no one was staying on the property so whoever was on the dock, was not affiliated with this property. There was a July 5, 2023 report for a party

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going on at 5:00PM; on March 4, 2023 subjects were listening to music in a hot tub, advised to

turn the music down and were cooperative. A report on July 5, 2021 was filed by Mr. Boccelli of 87

a neighbor taking pictures of people on his property. Mr. Bisson stated he received an update from the Code Enforcement Officer for a report dated August 28, 2024, concerning the fact a neighbor feels the property is "party central" with twenty five people on the property at any time but that does not violate any ordinance; there is also a concern that the No Trespassing signs are ugly; parking has been an issue per the neighbor and he doesn't believe that the property enhances his property value. Another police report is regarding females getting out of a boat on to a dock that is posted "No Trespassing" however the police officer determined the reporter did not witness the behavior. Mr. Bisson stated it is the conclusion that three to four incidences over the last few years, are of young people outside and enjoying the area; each time the people were addressed by police, they were apologetic and modified their behaviors, per the police reports. He stated this is a situation where it is a tight space, a shared driveway and when people don't get along, it doesn't rise to the level of a Cease and Desist from the Code Enforcement Officer for a use that is allowed. He stated he has discussed the issue of non-conforming use with Town Counsel.

Mr. Monzione stated it is his understanding that an appeal is reflective of an interpretation of an ordinance. Mr. Bisson stated that is correct; it was the decision of the Code Enforcement Officer that certain sections of the ordinance were violated. Mr. Monzione stated the Board is confined to dealing with the interpretation of the provision of the ordinance. Mr. Bisson stated they are also appealing the definition used by the CEO for "obnoxious".

Ms. Ditri presented a staff review for the Board, outlining the process for an appeal. She stated there is a definition for "obnoxious" within the ordinance, Section 321; she stated the behavior from many complainants led her to the conclusion that there is a violation; specifically, "a reasonable expectation of comfort, peace, quiet enjoyment of the community and neighborhood." Mr. Bisson stated that is not what the Cease and Desist letter indicates; the conclusion is that the applicant has rented the property in a residential district for short term rental; tenants and landlord have exhibited obnoxious behavior, but it does not indicate that is disturbing the peace, which would be inline with the ordinance. He stated the appeal is for this Cease and Desist as it calls the owner obnoxious.

Mr. Monzione confirmed the CEO is that the use was not grandfathered but Mr. Bisson argues it is because the use was existing before the ordinance amendment. He stated one of the things that would cause grandfathering to be lost is "obnoxious" behavior. Mr. Bisson stated he disagrees and these two issues are not tied together. He stated each should be considered separately.

Vice Chair Lee stated the CEO appears to be looking out for the best interest of the community; she acted on reports of a short term rental being operating on a residential zone, which was not permitted as of March 2023 and would not have known it was preexisting, based on the information provided to her; it is his opinion that the procedure was followed properly. Mr. Bisson suggested the CEO have more dialog to determine preexisting use before issuing a Cease and Desist, especially when there are recent amendments to the ordinances. He stated there is a healthy record to show the short term rental was preexisting.

Vice Chair Lee opened the hearing to input from the public.

- Vince Bodart, abutter, stated he is concerned that the attorney referced information that he 134 provided to the Board and stated it wasn't intended for him but only the Board and the Planning 135 office. Mr. Bobart stated he had people and kids on his boathouse and took pictures; he stated 136 when he approached people to leave it, they swore at him. He stated in 2020, he brought this 137 short term rental to the attention of the Town Manager, who referred him to the Town Planner 138 and the Building Inspector. He stated his concerns about this short term rental is nothing new; he 139 state the zoning is "permissive" so if its not permitted, it can't be done so prior to the ordinance 140 amendment it was not permitted. Mr. Bodart stated this property is a full time business and there 141 is no residence by the property owner, which is required as of the ordinance in 2017. He stated 142 he has owned his property since the 1980s and never had to call the police until this property 143 became a short term rental; he stated this was the direction offered by the Town officials. He 144 stated the obnoxious behavior at this short term rental is affecting his peaceful enjoyment of his 145 146 property. 147
- Bill O'Brien, resident, stated he called the police twice; both times were at 1:30 PM in the morning due to noise; he stated he doesn't have a problem for renters who are there for a week but the ones that come for a weekend are disruptive.
- Mary O'Brien, resident, presented a letter from Howard Newton, an abutter, who was unable to a attend.
- 155 Vice Chair Lee closed the hearing to input from the public.

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- Mr. Monzione stated short term rentals are a specific use and outlined the requirements for permitting and questioned if this property met the criteria of a preexisting use. Mr. Bisson stated the ordinance doesn't apply to this property because it was not enacted prior to the short term rental operation; he reiterated that is not the topic addressed in the Cease and Desist.
- The Board discussed the information and testimony presented. Mr. Monzione stated he believes the use of the property as a short term rental was consistent prior to the enactment of the ordinance; he stated the definition of "obnoxious" is broad but believes it was interpreted correctly with regard to the reasonable expectation of enjoyment of the property. Mr. LaRochelle the use may be grandfathered but a permit is still needed, and the ordinance criteria have to be met. Mr. Rich stated it seems the Cease and Desist was appropriate for one issue but not the other.
- MOTION: That the appeal be granted Map 36 Lot 12, 115 Mount Major Highway with regard to the first grounds of the appeal which is that the use is grandfathered and therefore the interpretation by the Code Enforcement Officer for the Cease and Desist was a misinterpretation of the zoning ordinance based on these facts. Motion by Mr. Monzione. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed 5-0-0.
- MOTION: That the appeal for Map 36 Lot 12, 115 Mount Major Highway with regard to the second grounds of the appeal in regard to the obnoxious use and the use presented by abutters and evidence meets the definition in the zoning ordinance, Section 321, and therefore the interpretation by the Code Enforcement Officer was correct and the appeal is

denied. Motion by Mr. Monzione. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed 5-0-0.

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2. NEW APPLICATIONS

Case #Z24-35	Map 12 Lot 70	Variance
Camp Five Trust, Keith Derosa, Applicant for	Bear Pond Road	Rural Zone (RU)
Jay and Julie Cleary, Owners		

- A Variance is requested from Article 400 Section 452.A.1 to allow a non-conforming lot of
 41 AC due to subsequent Lot Line Adjustment where lots under two (2) AC are not
- permitted.

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Vice Chair Lee read the public notice into the record. The Board reviewed the application for completeness.

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MOTION: To accept the application as complete. Motion by Mr. LaRochelle. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed unanimously.

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- 193 Keith Derosa, applicant, stated he has a small cabin on lot 71; about 20 years ago, a septic
- system was installed but the boundaries were not measured correctly; he stated Northway Plains
- recently surveyed the property and determined the leach field was on the abutting property. Mr.
- Derosa stated he has made an agreement with the Clearys to purchase 5,000 square feet and
- make the adjustment for the boundary to lot 70. The increase is .086 acres for a total lot size of
- 0.41 acres. There is no purchase and sales agreement until the adjustment is approved by the
- 199 Board.

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Vice Chair Lee closed the hearing to input from the public. None was indicated.

- Vice Chair Lee closed the public hearing.
- 204 **Discussion Case #24-35**
- 205 The Board must find that all the following conditions are met in order to grant the Variance:
- Vice Chair Lee stated granting the variance *would not* be contrary to the public interest. He
- stated the lot will be less nonconforming and is in the best interest of all parties involved. The
- 208 Board agreed.
- Mr. Monzione stated the request is in harmony with the spirit of the ordinance and the intent of
- 210 the Master Plan to maintain the health, safety and character of the direct district within which it
- is proposed. He stated it will be in line with the Master Plan to have the leach field on the
- property that it serves. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Mankus stated that by granting the variance, substantial justice *will be* done. The Board
- 214 agreed.
- 215 Mr. Larochelle stated the values of surrounding properties *will not be* diminished. He stated
- 216 nothing is changing other than a lot line adjustment. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Rich stated that for the purposes of this subparagraph, "unnecessary hardship" means that,
- owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area:

- 219 i. No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of 220 the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the 221 property;
 - ii. The proposed use is a reasonable one.

Mr. Rich stated the applicant found out that his septic system is located on another property, it is a hardship that needs to be corrected and to deny this variance would impose a hardship; the use is reasonable. Mr. Monzione stated the special conditions of the property is that the leach field is on another property. The Board agreed.

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MOTION: To approve the application for a variance for Case #Z24-35, Map 12 Lot 70 Bear Pond Road. Motion by Mr. Rich. Second by Mr. LaRochelle. Motion passed unanimously.

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Case #Z24-36	Map 14 Lot 1-2	Variance
Daniel Lang, Owner	232 Jesus Valley Road	Rural Zone (RU)

A Variance is requested from **Article 400 Section 452.B** to permit the subdivision of a new lot with 200' of road frontage on a class 6 road and a shared driveway.

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Vice Chair Lee read the public notice into the record. The Board reviewed the application for completeness.

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MOTION: To accept the application as complete. Motion by Mr. LaRochelle. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed unanimously.

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Daniel Lang, owner, explained his mother built an accessory dwelling unit on the property many years ago; the main house and ADU have a shared driveway, and he now owns both residences. Mr. Lang stated he wants to separate the homes so they can enlarge their home; his sister lives in the ADU. Mr. Lang stated each lot will meet requirements except for the frontage; about 800 feet of frontage for the ten acre lot will be on a Class VI road but the shared driveway would remain on the Class V road.

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Vice Chair Lee noted the Highway Department request a driveway permit be filed.

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Mr. Monzione noted the applicant will also need to go to the Planning Board for the subdivision approval and a building permit from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Lang confirmed the size and footprints of the structures aren't changing.

- Vice Chair Lee closed the hearing to input from the public. None was indicated.
- 255 Vice Chair Lee closed the public hearing.
- 256 **Discussion Case #24-36**
- 257 The Board must find that all the following conditions are met in order to grant the Variance:
- 258 Mr. Monzione stated granting the variance *would not* be contrary to the public interest given the
- location of the lot and the fact there is an existing ADU. The Board agreed.

- 260 Mr. Mankus stated the request **is** in harmony with the spirit of the ordinance and the intent of the
- Master Plan to maintain the health, safety and character of the direct district within which it is
- proposed. The Board agreed.
- 263 Mr. LaRochelle stated that by granting the variance, substantial justice *will be* done. He stated
- 264 this is a dead end road with no neighbors nearby; the subdividing is to expand the applicants
- living space for his family. The Board agreed.
- 266 Mr. Rich stated the values of surrounding properties *will not be* diminished. He stated the land
- surrounding the lot is in conservation, owned by the same family. The Board agreed.
- Vice Chair Lee stated that for the purposes of this subparagraph, "unnecessary hardship" means
- 269 that, owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the
- 270 *area*:
- No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the
- 273 property;
- iv. The proposed use is a reasonable one.
- 275 Vice Chair Lee stated to deny this variance would impose a hardship; the use is reasonable. The
- Board agreed.

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- 278 MOTION: To approve the application for a variance for Case #Z24-36, Map 14 Lot 1-2
- 279 232 Jesus Valley Road. Motion by Mr. LaRochelle. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed
- 280 unanimously.

Case #Z24-37	Map 62 Lot 13	Special Exception
Mark & Jana Mowers, Owners	6 Mill Cove Road	Lake Shore Residential Zone
		(LR)

- A Special Exception is requested from Article 300 Section 320.D to permit the tear down and rebuild of an existing single family residence on the same footprint with an increased structure height.
- Vice Chair Lee read the public notice into the record. The Board reviewed the application for completeness.
- MOTION: To accept the application as complete. Motion by Mr. Monzione. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed unanimously.
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- Mark Mowers, owner, stated they want to demolish and rebuild their home; there are rotted
- support beams; the septic system is failing. The footprint will not change; there will be limited
- tree removal and the added space will go up to make it suitable for year-round use. The existing
- structure is 31.3'; the new structure would be 39.6'. Mr. Mowers stated they will be starting
- lower, 4' below grade, so the height isn't going to be that much higher than the existing. Mr.
- 297 Rich noted that per the plans the median height is 33.6'. It was confirmed the structure would not
- exceed the 35' height restriction. Mr. Mowers presented photos showing that no abutters views

- would be impacted; he stated he is reducing the size of the decks to meet the requirements.
- Mr. Monzione noted the structure will be within the shoreline setback but its is grandfathered; he
- asked if there is any other nonconforming points of this building. It was confirmed that the only
- nonconforming aspect is the distance to the shoreline. Per the plans, the deck will be moved back
- as far from the shoreline as possible, but the structure cannot be moved back due to the location
- of the leach field. Mr. Mowers confirmed this has been reviewed by NH DES.
- Vice Chair Lee opened the hearing to input from the public.
- Jay Jermell, abutter, stated after reviewing the plans, he doesn't believe it adds up or that the
- structure will be below 35' height. He questioned the grade calculations and wants to be sure the
- height doesn't impact his view. Vice Chair Lee explained the grade is being lowered.
- Mr. Mowers confirmed the grade is going to change with sloping and backfilling; the total height
- of the building will be 39' but they are going down further with the foundation by 5.10'.
- 316 Vice Chair Lee closed the public hearing.
- 318 Special Exception Discussion Case #Z24-37
- 320 The Board must find that all the following conditions are met in order to grant the Special
- 321 Exception:

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- Vice Chair Lee stated that a plat/plan has been submitted in accordance with the appropriate
- criteria in the Zoning Ordinance, Article 520.B. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Monzione stated the specific site is an appropriate location for the use; the use is not
- 325 changing. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Mankus stated that actual evidence is not found that the property values in the district will
- be reduced due to incompatible land uses. No demonstrable facts have been brought forward by
- abutters or anyone else other than an appraisal from the applicant. The new house will be in the
- same place as the existing house. The Board agreed.
- Mr. LaRochelle stated there were concerns by abutters regarding the height and view; after
- review and discussion of the plans, there will be a condition that the new structure won't be
- higher than four to five feet than the current ridgeline. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Rich stated there is no undue nuisance or serious hazard to pedestrian or vehicular traffic,
- including the location and design of access ways and off-street parking. The Board agreed.
- Vice Chair Lee stated adequate and appropriate facilities and utilities will be provided to ensure
- the proper operation of the proposed use or structure. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Monzione stated there **is** an adequate area for safe and sanitary sewage disposal and water
- supply. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Mankus stated the proposed use or structure **is** consistent with the spirit of this ordinance and
- the intent of the Master Plan. The Board agreed.

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APPROVED 10-3-2024

- MOTION: To approve the application for Case#Z24-37 for a Special Exception with the condition that the finished height of the proposed structure be in accordance with the plans presented and will not be higher than depicted; all NH DES permits must be obtained.
- Motion by Mr. Monzione. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. LaRochelle recused himself from the Board for Cases Z24-38, 39 and 40.

Case #Z24-38	Map 33 Lot 36	Variance
Paul LaRochelle, Agent for Timothy	13 Mariette Drive	Lake Shore Residential Zone
Barchard, Owner		(LR)

A Variance is requested from Article 300 Section 320 J.3, 4, 5, and 6 to permit the expansion of a nonconforming structure.

Vice Chair Lee read the public notice into the record. The Board reviewed the application for completeness.

MOTION: To accept the application as complete. Motion by Mr. Rich. Second by Mr. Mankus. Motion passed unanimously.

Paul LaRochelle, representative for the applicant, stated this a unique lake front property on Alton Bay; there is an existing 8' by 13' shed and is in disrepair nor is it adequate for proper storage. Mr. LaRochelle stated the lot is very small and the proposal is to remove the existing shed and rebuild a 16' by 20' single car garage/shed so Mr. Barchard can store his motorcycle, equipment, etc. without having to rent storage space elsewhere. Mr. LaRochelle stated the existing shed is on a retaining wall and on the property line adjacent to Mariette Drive; a recent survey shows that the shed is only half on his property currently. A lot line adjustment will be needed to add to the concrete wall that is existing. Mr. LaRochelle stated the owners of the easement area across the street, and who own the road, have agreed to a lot line adjustment to sell a pie shaped piece of property so Mr. Barchard's shed will be fully on his property. Mr. Barchard previously believed the shed to be entirely on his property. Mr. LaRochelle confirmed the lot line adjustment would not create a non-conforming aspect of either property. The existing shed is 10.4' high; the new structure would be 13'. The height of the home is 15'; it was confirmed this won't affect the Shubert Family Trust property or any property across the drive.

- Vice Chair Lee opened the hearing to input from the public. None was indicated.
- Vice Chair Lee closed the hearing to input from the public.
- 375 **Discussion Case #24-38**
- 376 The Board must find that all the following conditions are met in order to grant the Variance:
- Vice Chair Lee stated granting the variance *would not* be contrary to the public interest. He
- stated with the lot line adjustment, the property will be less nonconforming. Mr. Monzione stated
- it is not contrary when considering the location and layout of this site. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Monzione stated the request is in harmony with the spirit of the ordinance and the intent of
- the Master Plan to maintain the health, safety and character of the direct district within which it

- is proposed. He stated the zoning ordinance is to maintain setbacks but the purpose isn't an issue 382
- here because it is against a private drive and will be an overall improvement to the property. Mr. 383
- Rich stated the applicant and agent are trying to make a nonconforming lot, less nonconforming 384
- by making sure the shed that is not currently on the applicant's property, is going to be fully on 385
- the applicant's property. The Board agreed. 386
- Mr. Mankus stated that by granting the variance, substantial justice will be done. He stated it will 387
- provide an area for the applicant to store his personal belongings. The Board agreed. 388
- Mr. Rich stated the values of surrounding properties will not be diminished. He stated it will 389
- enhance the values with the old shed being demolished and the new shed being more 390
- conforming. The Board agreed. 391
- Vice Chair Lee stated that for the purposes of this subparagraph, "unnecessary hardship" means 392
- that, owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the 393
- 394 area:
- No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of ν. the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property;
- The proposed use is a reasonable one. vi.
- Vice Chair Lee stated to deny this variance would impose a hardship; the use is reasonable. The 399 Board agreed. 400
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- MOTION: To approve the application for a variance for Case #Z24-38, Map 33 Lot 36 402
- 13 Mariette Drive. Motion by Mr. Rich. Second by Mr. Mankus. Motion passed 403
- 404 unanimously.

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Case #Z24-39	Map 33 Lot 36	Special Exception
Paul LaRochelle, Agent for Timothy	13 Mariette Drive	Lake Shore Residential Zone
Barchard, Owner		(LR)

- A Special Exception is requested from Article 300 Section 320.J to permit the expansion of a nonconforming structure.
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- Vice Chair Lee read the public notice into the record. The Board reviewed the application for 409 410 completeness.
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- MOTION: To accept the application as complete. Motion by Mr. Monzione. Second by Mr. 412
- 413 Rich. Motion passed unanimously.

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- Mr. LaRochelle stated the proposed size will not exceed the existing structure; it will be in the 415
- same location. 416

- Vice Chair Lee opened the hearing to input from the public. None was indicated. 418
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- Vice Chair Lee closed the public hearing. 420

Special Exception Discussion – Case #Z24-39

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- The Board must find that all the following conditions are met in order to grant the Special
- 425 Exception:
- Vice Chair Lee stated that a plat/plan **has** been submitted in accordance with the appropriate
- 427 criteria in the Zoning Ordinance, Article 520.B. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Monzione stated the specific site **is** an appropriate location for the use. He stated the use is a
- garage and there is nothing inappropriate about the location and use. The Board agreed.
- 430 Mr. Mankus stated that actual evidence is not found that the property values in the district will
- be reduced due to incompatible land uses. No demonstrable facts have been brought forward by
- abutters. The Board agreed.
- 433 Mr. Rich stated there **is no** valid objection from abutters. The Board agreed.
- Vice Chair Lee stated there **is no** undue nuisance or serious hazard to pedestrian or vehicular
- traffic, including the location and design of access ways and off-street parking. The Board
- 436 agreed.
- Mr. Monzione stated adequate and appropriate facilities and utilities will be provided to ensure
- the proper operation of the proposed use or structure. He stated there are no changes to these
- systems. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Mankus stated there **is** adequate area for safe and sanitary sewage disposal and water supply.
- 441 The Board agreed.
- Mr. Rich stated the proposed use or structure is consistent with the spirit of this ordinance and
- the intent of the Master Plan. Mr. Rich stated the area is consistent with having difficulties due to
- lot sizes and the configurations of the lots but the plans have done well to mitigate any potential
- problems. The Board agreed.
- 446 MOTION: To approve application Case#Z24-39 for a Special Exception for Map 33 Lot 36
- 13 Mariette Drive. Motion by Mr. Mankus. Second by Vice Chair Lee. Motion passed
- 448 unanimously.

Case #Z24-40	Map 33 Lot 36	Variance
Paul LaRochelle, Agent for Timothy	13 Mariette Drive	Lake Shore Residential Zone
Barchard, Owner		(LR)

- 450 **A Variance** is requested from **Article 400 Section 412 A & B.2** to permit a lot line adjustment
- to remain non-conforming.

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Vice Chair Lee read the public notice into the record. The Board reviewed the application for completeness.

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- 456 MOTION: To accept the application as complete. Motion by Mr. Rich. Second by Mr.
- 457 Monzione. Motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. LaRochelle explained this variance will allow the lot line adjustment to remain non-459
- conforming. Mr. Monzione confirmed two new lots are being created; one will be non-460
- conforming. 461

Vice Chair Lee opened the hearing to input from the public. None was indicated. 463

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Vice Chair Lee closed the hearing to input from the public. 465

- Discussion Case #24-40 466
- The Board must find that all the following conditions are met in order to grant the Variance: 467
- Mr. Monzione stated granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest. He stated 468
- the lot is currently non-conforming and this won't make it more non-conforming, but it will be 469
- larger so less non-conforming. The Board agreed. 470
- Mr. Mankus stated the request is in harmony with the spirit of the ordinance and the intent of the 471
- Master Plan to maintain the health, safety and character of the direct district within which it is 472
- proposed. The Board agreed. 473
- Mr. Rich stated that by granting the variance, substantial justice *will be* done. The Board agreed. 474
- Mr. Rich stated the values of surrounding properties will not be diminished. He stated no 475
- information was submitted to indicate values would be diminished but a study was provided to 476
- indicate that values would not be diminished. The Board agreed. 477
- Vice Chair Lee stated that for the purposes of this subparagraph, "unnecessary hardship" means 478
- that, owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the 479
- 480 area:
- i. No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of 481 the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the 482 property; 483
 - The proposed use is a reasonable one. ii.
- Vice Chair Lee stated the use is reasonable. The Board agreed. 485

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- MOTION: To approve the application for Case #Z24-40 for a variance for Map 33 Lot 36 487
- 13 Mariette Drive. Motion by Mr. Mankus. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed 488
- 489 unanimously.
- Mr. LaRochelle rejoined the Board. 490

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Case #Z24-41	Map 25 Lot 14	Variance
Ethan Wood, Esq. & Pat Heffernan,	33 Baxter Place	Rural Zone (RU)
Agents for John Miles, Owner		

A Variance is requested from Article 300 Section 350 to permit a manufactured house under 492 14'. 493

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Vice Chair Lee read the public notice into the record. The Board reviewed the application for 495 completeness. 496

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MOTION: To accept the application as complete. Motion by Mr. LaRochelle. Second by 498 Mr. Rich. Motion passed unanimously. 499

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Ethan Wood, Esq., representative for the applicant, explained the manufactured homes that are currently marketed and sold, are different than what is required by the ordinance; he stated the marketed height of the manufactured home is 16', but the actual size is 13.4', which makes it non-conforming by 8". Vice Chair Lee noted when this case was previously before the Board, it was assumed the roof line would be above 14'. Mr. Rich agreed. The Board reviewed photos of the current mobile home.

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Vice Chair Lee opened the hearing to input from the public. None was indicated. 508

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Vice Chair Lee closed the hearing to input from the public. 510

- Discussion Case #24-41 511
- The Board must find that all the following conditions are met in order to grant the Variance: 512
- Vice Chair Lee stated granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest. He 513
- stated this is a tear-down and rebuild that will benefit the applicant and the neighborhood. Mr. 514
- Monzione stated the difference is minor and is an improvement over the existing structure. The 515
- Board agreed. 516
- Mr. Monzione stated the request is in harmony with the spirit of the ordinance and the intent of 517
- the Master Plan to maintain the health, safety and character of the direct district within which it 518
- is proposed. The Board agreed. 519

520 Mr. Mankus stated that by granting the variance, substantial justice will be done. The Board

- agreed. 521
- 522 Mr. LaRochelle stated the value of surrounding properties will not be diminished. He stated no
- information was submitted to indicate values would be diminished but a study was provided to 523
- indicate that values would not be diminished. The Board agreed. 524
- Vice Chair Lee stated that for the purposes of this subparagraph, "unnecessary hardship" means 525
- that, owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the 526
- area: 527

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- i. No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property;
- ii. The proposed use is a reasonable one.
- Vice Chair Lee stated the proposed use is reasonable. The Board agreed. 532

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- MOTION: To approve the request for a variance for Map 25 Lot 14 534
- 33 Baxter Place, application for Case #Z24-41. Motion by Mr. LaRochelle. Second by Mr. 535
- Rich. Motion passed unanimously. 536

Case #Z24-42	Map 5 Lot 59	Equitable Waiver
Tom Varney & Josh Thibeault, Agents for	400 Halls Hill	Rural Zone (RU)
Caylene & Anthony Coculo, Owners	Road	

An Equitable Waiver is requested from Article 300 Section 327 to permit an existing building to be 12' within the front setback.

Vice Chair Lee read the public notice into the record. The Board reviewed the application for completeness.

MOTION: To accept the application as complete. Motion by Mr. Rich. Second by Mr. LaRochelle. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Varney, Varney Engineering, LLC, representative for the applicants, stated the property is a schoolhouse that the owners want to convert to a residential home; the outside appearance of the structure will remain the same and the new construction is for the interior renovation. Mr. Varney stated the building was constructed in the 1850s and was located on the property before any building setback requirements were in place; a new septic system and well are proposed. Mr. Varney presented photos for review by the Board; he stated the school house has been here for many decades, as have surrounding abutters.

Mr. Monzione questioned why Mr. Varney is requesting an equitable waiver. Mr. Varney stated it is a school building within a residential zone and use. Mr. Monzione stated he doesn't see where there is any ordinance to prohibit the proposed uses. Mr. Varney stated this was requested at the advice of the Planning department. Ms. Ditri stated if a building has been discovered to be in violation of a physical land requirement, the equitable waiver is needed. It was noted this building has been on the site since before zoning ordinances were in place. Mr. Monzione stated if the footprint is not being changed, he doesn't see a need for any zoning relief. Mr. LaRochelle referred to the ordinance which requires an equitable waiver be granted to the property owner when a violation is found. Mr. Monzione suggested the purpose of that is when someone mistakenly does something in violation of the ordinance; however, that is not the case for this property as it was recently acquired property with pre-existing, non-conforming aspects. Mr. Rich agreed and stated if there was an expansion, a special exception would be needed but the renovation only pertains to the interior, so no relief is needed.

The Board discussed whether an equitable waiver is needed. Mr. Monzione argued that there is no violation so doesn't believe this is needed; he stated if they work through the criteria for the equitable waiver and answer no, they will be issuing a denial which could impact the property owner and property in the future.

- Vice Chair Lee opened the hearing to input from the public. None was indicated.
- Vice Chair Lee closed the hearing to input from the public.
- MOTION: That no Equitable Waiver of Dimensional Requirements is needed for Map 5
- Lot 59, 400 Halls Hill Road. Motion by Mr. Monzione. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed
- **unanimously.**

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Case #Z24-43	Map 8 Lot 25	Variance
Ryan Heath, Owner	182 Frank C. Gilman Hwy	Rural Residential Zone (RR)

A Variance is requested from **Article 400 Section 463 A** to permit a fully approved 45 unit senior housing development to be changed to multi-family, serviced by Town water.

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Vice Chair Lee read the public notice into the record. The Board reviewed the application for completeness.

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MOTION: To accept the application as complete. Motion by Mr. LaRochelle. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed unanimously.

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Ryan Heath, owner and applicant, stated this development was proposed and approved in 2009 but by the time the permits were approved, he was not able to move forward for financial reasons. Mr. Heath stated substantial completion has been met with the Planning department, but a variance is needed for density to permit multi-family instead of senior housing. He explained his reasons for the proposed change; he stated one of the conditions of the prior approval involved bearing the cost of continuing municipal water supply along Route 140, which would be 1400' to get to the first house, which was at a cost in excess of \$175,000. He explained in the early 2000, Irving had an unknown oil tank leak and seven wells in the area were contaminated with the aquifer; as a result, the State of New Hampshire maintained and paid for a full water treatment system in the existing homes and wells are continued to be monitored. Unfortunately after two years, the cost versus benefit analysis did not make the project sustainable to the State. Mr. Heath stated multi-family use is allowed but at a density of one unit per acre but the reason for this is that a rural area doesn't have municipal water; however, his property is unique in that there is municipal water, and the one acre requirement was intended to protect wells and septic system, but he believes the density requirement can be reduced for his property. This property has 14.5 acres with 75% open/green space. The front units are almost 700 feet from the road; there is a mature tree buffer around the perimeter of the property with no additional impact. Mr. Heath stated the development is already approved so he is only looking to change from senior to multi-family units. He explained the current ordinance would not restrict ages, as long as there is one resident 62 or older so it wouldn't be a strictly 55+ community; it would create a hybrid environment; he explained it makes more sense to have multi-units instead. He stated the roadway has been cut in, the Alteration of Terrain permit approved, and the water system is installed; the only change is the age restriction; there would be 4 units in each building, roughly 1200 square feet each unit with 11 buildings.

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Ms. Ditri noted that per the ordinance, one acre per dwelling unit is required. Mr. Heath confirmed that is the reason for his request for a waiver.

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Mr. Rich asked how the change helps Mr. Heath. Mr. Heath explained the age restriction is not 55+ and would create an uncertain market; opening it to multi-family creates more opportunities for rentals for anyone, without age restriction. It will be strictly rentals; two bedroom, one bathroom. There are two parking spaces per unit. Mr. Heath stated it will also help with his banking and financing because there won't be the confusion of a hybrid use with the age

623 restriction.

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Mr. Monzione stated the proposal has already been approved; as it stands now, any age can reside in the units as long as there is one senior, and it will be more feasible to market the rental units as a multi-family than senior housing. Granting the variance will allow Mr. Heath to keep the same project but rent without age restrictions.

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Ms. Ditri noted the variance request is for Section 463. A in regard to the multi-family structures and acreage is required for the dwelling; her calculations indicate 44 acres would be needed.

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Mr. Rich confirmed that if this is approved, Mr. Heath won't need to make any changes with the Planning Board or with State approvals.

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Vice Chair Lee closed the hearing to input from the public.

Fred Rogers, abutter, stated he acknowledges that the previous proposal for senior housing was 637 accepted, even though its considerably denser than what the ordinance allows, but his concern is 638 that by moving to multi-family will impact the density even more with a greater volume of 639 individuals in the area. He stated they already have neighbors who are loud because they are 640 younger and they are concerned the noise level will go up. He stated there will also be more 641 traffic and an impact on the schools. Mr. Rogers stated they are direct abutters on the 29 acre lot 642 to the west. Ms. Rogers stated they will be able to see some of the units from their home. Mr. 643 Monzione stated the visibility would be the same regardless of the residents occupying the units. 644

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Ms. Rogers stated she is concerned that there are a lot of trails in an abutting property, and they've had problems with people trespassing their property to access the trails. She is also concerned whether this will be low-income housing which will bring police and drug situations. Ms. Rogers stated they moved to the property for peace and quiet and that won't continue with the construction and drilling that happens; they have lived here since 2012. Mr. Rich noted that the senior housing was approved in 2009, and children could still be allowed there.

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- Mr. Heath stated he is familiar with the trail system Ms. Rogers is referred to; it is a State snowmobile corridor runs through many of the properties in the area but doesn't see where there would be access on to the Rogers property. He stated there won't be any further clearing of the lot so if the Rogers can't see the area now, that won't change. The outer building limits have been flagged and a buffer has been maintained. Mr. Heath stated this will not be low income housing as that wouldn't support the investment and infrastructure that will go into the project. He stated the plan is to have his son live in one of the units as an on-site manager; this would not change based on any age restriction of the units. He will be responsible for conditions within the development and any of the systems. Mr. Heath reiterated that regardless if the variance is granted, children will be permitted in the units as the ordinance restrictions currently stand.
- 662 grante
- Vice Chair Lee closed the hearing to input from the public.

664 Discussion Case #24-43

The Board must find that all the following conditions are met in order to grant the Variance:

- Mr. Monzione stated granting the variance *would not* be contrary to the public interest. He stated
- this is a project that has already been approved with extensive review and public input; the units
- will be there regardless if the variance is approved; and the ordinance would allow for children to
- be in the units and there isn't enough distinction to show this request is contrary to the public
- interest. The Board agreed.
- Mr. Mankus stated the request *is* in harmony with the spirit of the ordinance and the intent of the
- Master Plan to maintain the health, safety and character of the direct district within which it is
- proposed. He stated this fits the Master Plan as it provides housing for people with two-bedroom
- units. Mr. Rich agreed that it fits the Master Plan to provide reasonable housing; there isn't
- enough distinction between the previously approved senior housing, which would still have
- allowed children, and this proposal. He stated the units will be rentals so can be controlled by the
- owner/manager. Mr. Monzione stated the Master Plan looks at promoting this type of
- development with cluster development and open-space. The Board agreed.
- Mr. LaRochelle stated that by granting the variance, substantial justice will be done. He stated
- iustice will be done for the applicant after purchasing the property and then discovering the oil
- leak and not being able to put in adequate wells; water lines have been put in to serve the
- property from the municipal source. The Board agreed.
- 683 Mr. Rich stated the values of surrounding properties *will not be* diminished. He stated the
- surrounding properties were well aware this project would be going forward and doesn't believe
- the difference between senior and multi-family housing won't be distinguishable. Mr. Monzione
- stated no information was submitted to indicate values would be diminished. The Board agreed.
- Vice Chair Lee stated that for the purposes of this subparagraph, "unnecessary hardship" means
- that, owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area:
- 689 *area*

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- i. No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property;
- ii. The proposed use is a reasonable one.
- Vice Chair Lee stated to deny this variance would impose a hardship; the use is reasonable. Mr.
- Monzione stated there is no fair and substantial relationship between the general purpose of the
- ordinance and the specific application of that provision to this project because the ordinance
- 697 currently allows children. The Board agreed.

699 MOTION: To approve the variance application for Case #Z24-43, Map 8 Lot 25

182 Frank C. Gilman Hwy. Motion by Mr. LaRochelle. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed

701 unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Previous Business: None.
- **2. New Business**: Ms. Ditri asked the Board to consider the possibility of doing live streaming audio and video for this meeting; all other boards in Town have video and audio recording. The Board agreed it is a reasonable request.

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709	3.	Approval of Minutes:
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711		Meeting of August 1, 2024- Edits were made. MOTION: To approve the minutes as
712		amended. Motion by Mr. LaRochelle. Second by Mr. Rich. Motion passed
713		unanimously.
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715	4.	Correspondence: None.
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717	MOT]	ION: To adjourn the meeting. Motion by Mr. Monzione. Second by Mr. Mankus.
718	Motio	n passed unanimously.
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720	The m	eeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.
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722	Respec	ctfully Submitted,
723	Jenn	nifer Riel
724	Jennife	er Riel, Recording Secretary