
**MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members of the Commission present were: Mr. Fowler, Ms. Harlow, Mr. Misrach and Mr. Wolfe.

Also present were: Bryan Snyder, Hamilton County Zoning Inspector and Luanne Felter, Zoning Secretary.

MR. MISRACH convened the hearing for BZA 2016-07 for the property located at 9671 Symbola Drive.

MR. SNYDER stated that the applicant replaced a wooden privacy fence with a six (6) foot high white vinyl privacy fence without obtaining a zoning certificate. The subject property is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Symbola Drive and Kosine Lane.

The fence encloses a portion of the property behind the home but because of the arrangement of the home on the corner lot it is technically considered the side yard and requires a variance. In addition, the applicant extended the new fence from the rear corner of the bump out room in the back of the house over to the front corner of the house. The purpose of the fence is to eliminate a safety risk with the in-ground pool. As you can see in the photos in the Staff Report, the fence is screened from the street during the summer months by large canopy trees in the front and side yards. Lastly, similar variances have been approved in the past including a variance for an almost identical type of fence on the opposite corner of Kosine Lane.

TANYA CORNETT (9671 Symbola Drive 45140) stated that the fence needed to be replaced because it was in disrepair and falling into the neighbor's yard. The fence company claimed that she did not need a permit to replace the fence and did not question it.

NANCY GRAF (9633 Symbola Drive 45140) stated that she lives on the opposite corner of Kosine Lane. Last year, she received a variance for the same type of fence. As a result, the street corners match well.

TERRY JAMES (11688 Kosine Lane 45140) stated that he lives adjacent to the applicants. He thinks the fence is well constructed and provides safety for the pool. He believes that the applicants operated in good faith.

MS. HARLOW stated that she has no issues with the fence and likes that the two fences blend in together.

MR. WOLFE concurred.

MR. WOLFE made a motion to consider the following:

**RESOLUTION
GRANTING
APPEAL NO. 2016-07**

WHEREAS, Rhett Butcher, 9671 Symbola Drive, Loveland, OH 45140, appellant, on August 1, 2016, filed Appeal No. 2016-07 under Section 183 of the Zoning Resolution, seeking a variance from the literal enforcement of Section 346.1 of said Resolution as applied to the property at 9671 Symbola Drive, Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, said appellant, on August 1, 2016, applied to the Symmes Township Zoning Inspector for a Zoning Certificate for the construction of a six (6) foot tall privacy fence within the side yard of a corner lot; and

WHEREAS, said Zoning Inspector, on August 1, 2016, acting upon said application and the plats and plans submitted, refused to issue said Certificate, his reasons being based upon the maps and regulations of the Zoning Resolution; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was scheduled for said appeal on September 12, 2016, notice of such hearing was given by first class mail to parties of interest and also by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said hearing in accordance with Section 303.15 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 41 et seq. of the Zoning Resolution and the Symmes Township District Maps designate said premises to be in the "A" Residence District; and

WHEREAS, Section 346.1 provides, in relevant part, that no fence or wall located in the front or side yard shall be built to a height greater than three (3) feet and shall have an open face area of no less than fifty (50%) percent or when constructed to a height of not more than four (4) feet above grade, shall have an open face area of no less than seventy-five (75%) percent; and

WHEREAS, according to testimony offered at the public hearing, the applicant replaced a wooden privacy fence that was in disrepair with a six (6) foot high white vinyl privacy fence without obtaining a zoning certificate; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the subject property is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Symbola Drive and Kosine Lane; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the fence encloses the portion of the property behind the home but because of the arrangement of the home on the corner lot it is technically considered the side yard and requires a variance; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the applicant extended the new fence from the rear corner of the bump out room in the back of the house over to the front corner of the house; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the fence is necessary to eliminate a safety risk for the in-ground pool; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the fence is screened from the street during the summer months by large canopy trees in the front and side yards; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, similar variances have been approved in the past including a variance for an almost identical type of fence on the opposite corner of Kosine Lane; and

WHEREAS, 184.6 empowers this Board to permit a variation in the yard requirements of any District where there are practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships in the carrying out of these provisions due to irregular shape of the lot, topographic or other conditions, provided such variation will not seriously affect any adjoining property or the general welfare; and

WHEREAS Section 185 provides, in exercising the above mentioned powers, the Board may reverse or affirm, wholly, or partly, or may modify the order requirement, decision or determination appealed from, and may make such order, requirement, decision or determination as ought to be made, and to that end shall have all powers of the Officer from whom the appeal is taken; and

WHEREAS, it is the consensus of this Board, after careful consideration of all the facts, testimony, and evidence submitted, that the literal enforcement of the strict application of Section

346.1 of the Zoning Resolution will result in unnecessary hardship to the appellant of the property in question; and

WHEREAS, the variation, in accordance with the following conditions, will not seriously affect any adjoining property owners or the general welfare; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that upon consideration of the foregoing, the Symmes Township Board of Zoning Appeals does hereby grant a variance from the requirement of Section 346.1 of the Zoning Resolution in accordance with the authority granted in Section 184.6. Furthermore, the decision of the Zoning Inspector to deny the issuance of a zoning certificate for the reason that the application failed to comply with Section 346.1 of the Zoning Resolution is affirmed, but in accordance with the authority of Section 185, the Board of Zoning Appeals, having granted a variance as stated above, hereby determines that a zoning certificate may be issued to the applicant consistent with the terms set forth in this Resolution; and

SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. That, the proposed privacy fence be constructed exactly as shown on the plats and plans submitted to this Board;
2. That, the proposed privacy fence not be relocated or enlarged without the approval of this Board;
3. That, the proposed privacy fence be maintained in a satisfactory condition at all times;
4. That, the proposed privacy fence comply in all other respects with the Zoning Resolution and the lawful requirements of the Hamilton County Building Commissioner;
5. That, the Zoning Certificate and Building permit (if required) for the proposed privacy fence be obtained within six months (6) months and all work be completed within one (1) year from the date of adoption of this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all plats, plans, applications and other data submitted be and are hereby made a part of this Resolution.

MS. HARLOW seconded the motion and the roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Fowler – ‘aye’, Ms. Harlow – ‘aye’, Mr. Misrach – ‘aye’, Mr. Wolfe – ‘aye’.

MS. HARLOW made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2016 meeting.

MR. WOLFE seconded the motion and the roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Fowler – ‘abstain’, Ms. Harlow – ‘aye’, Mr. Misrach – ‘aye’, Mr. Wolfe – ‘aye’.

MR. MISRACH adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Approved: _____
Luanne Felter, Secretary