

RESOLUTION

GRANTING

APPEAL NO. 2013-16

WHEREAS, Felicity J. Hill, 9960 Walnutridge Court, Cincinnati, OH 45242, appellant, on August 2, 2013, filed Appeal No. 2013-16 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 9960 Walnutridge Court, Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, said appellant, on July 29, 2013, applied to the Symmes Township Zoning Inspector for a Zoning Certificate for the construction of a fence with less open face area in the side yard of the home; and

WHEREAS, said Zoning Inspector, on July 29, 2013, 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 9, 2013, notice of such hearing was given by first class mail to parties in 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 request is to allow for the construction of a six-foot high privacy fence with less open face area than required in the side yard of the home; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the property is located on the south and east sides of Walnutridge Court, north of Humphrey Road; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the applicant is requesting to construct a six-foot high cedar shadowbox privacy fence in the rear and side yard areas of the single-family home; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the home is located on a corner lot created by a 90 degree turn in the alignment of Walnutridge Court. The rear of the home faces the side of the adjacent home to the south; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the fence would enclose a portion of the property behind the home but due to the placement of the home on a corner lot the area is technically considered the side yard where a variance is required; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the fence would also enclose the area to the east side of the home but due to the placement of the home on a corner lot the area is considered the rear yard and is permitted by the Zoning Resolution; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the fence would be constructed from the home to the eastern and southern property lines and would connect to an existing neighboring privacy fence on the southern property line; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the fence is needed to provide privacy for the patio area and hot tub located to the south of the home; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the fence is consistent with other privacy fences in the area and would not likely affect the character of the surrounding neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, according to further testimony offered at the public hearing, the request for the variance should be reviewed using the standards of "practical difficulties" and not based on a "use variance," "unnecessary hardship" or "undue hardship;" 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 shadowbox fence be constructed exactly as shown on the plats and plans submitted to this Board;
2. That, the proposed shadowbox fence not be relocated or enlarged without the approval of this Board;
3. That, the proposed shadowbox fence be maintained in a satisfactory condition at all times;
4. That, the proposed shadowbox 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 shadowbox 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.

ADOPTED at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Symmes Township Board of Zoning Appeals in session this 9th day of September 2013.

Mr. Flagel – “aye,” Ms. Harlow – “absent”, Mr. Havill – “absent”, Mr. Misrach – “aye”, Mr. Ruehlmann – “absent”, Mr. Wolfe – “aye”.

JOURNALIZED: SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

Brian E. Elliff
Township Zoning Inspector

Ralph Wolfe, Board Vice-Chairperson