





Pl. - CASH  
6/22/21  
Building and Zoning Department  
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Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
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## Plattsburgh, New York

### PROCEDURE IN APPEALING THE ZONING ORDINANCE CLASS B VARIANCE

DEADLINE FOR FILING APPLICATION

JUNE, 25, 2021

ZONING BOARD MEETING DATE

July, 19, 2021 at 7:00pm

The Zoning Board of Appeals has been empowered to hear and decide all appeals to the Zoning Ordinance and to do so the Board holds public meetings once a month.

The attached appeal application must be completely filled out and returned to the office for action by the Zoning Board of Appeals at their monthly meeting. The filing fee for said application is as follows:

One and Two-family dwellings -	\$ 50.00
Multiple Dwellings	\$150.00
Commercial Properties	\$150.00

**All checks should be made payable to the "City Chamberlain"**. In order for your appeal to be heard in the same month you apply, the appeal form and fee must be received by this office three weeks prior to the scheduled meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals. All applicants or their representatives should attend the Zoning Board of Appeals Public Meeting of their appeal to answer any questions the Board may have regarding their request.

In filling out the form, please be specific and supply the Zoning Board of Appeals with all the necessary information requested on the form. If you are requesting a variance from the ordinance, you must detail why the literal enforcement of the ordinance will produce an undue hardship, while the variance requested will adhere to the spirit of the ordinance and do substantial justice. Financial disadvantage to the property is no proof of hardship within the purpose of zoning. In addition to the above, an applicant must submit adequate drawings and a site plan of all requests, which will involve any construction, alterations, or physical change of their property. **THIRTEEN (13) copies of the entire packet including drawings, site plans and the original application are required** (we recommend the plans be approved before the THIRTEEN (13) copies are made).

Before the Zoning Board of Appeals may hear and decide your appeal, this office must first:

1. Publish the request in three successive issues of the Press-Republican newspaper not less than five (5) nor more than ten (10) days before the hearings.
2. Notify, by letter, all adjoining property owners of your request

*This office is responsible for implementing the above requirements.*

If there are any questions, please contact this office. Thank you for your cooperation.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

CITY HALL

PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK 12901

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STANDARDS OF PROOF - AREA VARIANCE

3. Is this hardship self-created? An area variance cannot be denied solely on the ground of self-created hardship, but is a factor to be considered.
4. Is the plight of the owner due to personal problems of the owner as opposed to matters dealing with the land or buildings? While an area variance may not be denied solely on this basis, it is a factor to be considered.

It was supposed to go at the Bottom  
of the hill But the truck could  
not make it down. But if you can  
help me find some one who will  
DO IT.

# ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

CITY HALL

PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK 12901

## STANDARDS OF PROOF - AREA VARIANCE

A. The applicant for an area variance is not entitled to an area variance unless he has furnished competent proof to satisfy the "practical difficulty standard" and that the variance, if granted will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood.

In order to satisfy the practical difficulty standard, the applicant must prove that the Zoning Ordinance as it applies to his land creates significant economic injury and that the variance, if granted, will not produce a substantial change in the character of the neighborhood. The courts of this state hold that "significant economic injury cannot be established except by dollars and cents proof which includes:

1. The original purchase price of the premises.
2. The current market value of the premises without an area variance.
3. The projected market value of the premises with the variance having been granted."

"Projected market value" in item 3 does not include any cost of valuation for the proposed construction. It includes only the current market value without any variance plus the "value of the right to build." The "value of the right to build" may be said to be the "value of the building permit". How much more valuable is the entire property with a building permit allowing the future construction of the proposed work? Projected market value which includes the value of the work to be constructed will be rejected.

Projected market value can be best shown by the in-person testimony of a real estate appraiser who is present at the hearing. Written appraisals may be less satisfactory because the writer is not present to answer any questions.

The difference between the current market value without the variance and the projected market value with the variance is the amount of economic injury. If the Zoning Board of Appeals determines that this economic injury is significant, then the applicant may be entitled to the area variance.

However, if a town official comes forward at the hearing with testimony establishing that it is important in this particular instance to enforce the Zoning Ordinance as it is written, in order to protect the health, safety and welfare, then the application must be denied. It is important to note that such testimony must be by a town official or someone hired by the town to give the testimony. If the Zoning Board of Appeals agrees with the Town Official that it is important in this case to enforce the Zoning Ordinance as written, then the applicant is not entitled to the area variance, unless he presents further testimony that the enforcement of the ordinance as written will deprive him of any reasonable use of his land. If applicant proves that, then he is entitled to the area variance.

B. The second question to be determined by the Zoning Board of Appeals is whether the the propose will alte the essential character of the neighborhood. Will a substantial detriment to adjoining properties be created? If it will, then the variance may be denied.

### C. Other Grounds for Denial:

1. Whether the variance applied for is the minimum variance that is necessary.
2. Is the variance sought one that is merely desirable for the greater enjoyment of the property, as opposed to one that is necessary for continued practical utilization of the premises? (Bielak v. Zoning Board of Appeals, 78 AD 2d 435).

## Area or Dimensional Variances

Area variances may be granted where setback, frontage, lot size or yard requirements of this Code cannot be reasonably met. In making it's determination the ZBA shall take into consideration the benefit to the applicant if the variance is granted, as weighed against the detriment to the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood or community by such grant. In making such determinations the board shall also consider the following criteria:

Please give a written response to each section.

(1) Will an undesirable change be produced to the character of the neighborhood or a detriment to nearby properties be created by the granting of the area variance?

no. we have gotten many compliments on the Shed. and the neighbor whos side it is near Does NOT mind.

(2) Can the benefit sought by the applicant be achieved by some method, feasible to the applicant to pursue, other than an area variance?

IF ITS ABLE TO BE MOVED DOWN THE DRIVE  
By some sort of truck

(3) Is the requested area variance substantial?

no

(4) Will the proposed variance have an adverse effect or impact on the physical or environmental conditions in the neighborhood?

no

(5) Has the alleged difficulty been self-created?

This information shall be relevant to the decision of the board but shall not necessarily preclude granting of the variance.

probably



## Area Variances Standards

The state statues define area variances as: "the authorization by the zoning board of appeals for the use of land in a manner which is not allowed by dimensional or physical requirements of the applicable zoning regulations."

General City Law, 81-b(1)

The state statues then go on to provide the zoning board with the standards for granting the area variances;

"(b) In making it's determination, the zoning board shall take into consideration the benefit to the applicant if the variance is granted, as weighed against the detriment to the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood or community by such grant. In making such determination the board shall also consider:

(1) whether an undesirable change will be produced in the character of the neighborhood or a detriment to nearby properties will be created by the granting of the area variance;

(2) whether the benefit sought by the applicant can be achieved by some method feasible for the applicant to pursue, other than an area variance;

(3) whether the requested area variance is substantial;

(4) whether the proposed variance will have an adverse effect or impact on the physical or environmental condition in the neighborhood or district; and

(5) whether the alleged difficulty was self-created; which consideration shall be relevant to the decision of the board of appeals, but shall not necessarily preclude the granting of the area variance.

The board of appeals , in the granting of area variances, shall grant the minimum variance that it shall deem necessary and adequate and at the same time preserve and protect the character of the neighborhood and the health, safety and welfare of the community."

General City Law, 81-b(4)

617.20  
Appendix B  
Short Environmental Assessment Form

**Instructions for Completing**


**Part 1 - Project Information.** The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

<b>Part 1 - Project and Sponsor Information</b>							
Name of Action or Project: <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Shed</p>							
Project Location (describe, and attach a location map): <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Shed near property also Beside garage</p>							
Brief Description of Proposed Action: <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">will be painted white + Black to match shed.</p>							
Name of Applicant or Sponsor: <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Nellie Benulle</p>		Telephone: <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">518 578 2871</p>					
		E-Mail: <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">nelliebenulle@verizon.net</p>					
Address: <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">22 Hillcrest Ave</p>							
City/PO: <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Plattsburgh <del>NY</del></p>		State: <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">NY</p>	Zip Code: <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">12901</p>				
1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation? If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to question 2.			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">NO</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	NO	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	YES						
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other governmental Agency? If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval:			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">NO</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	NO	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	YES						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
3.a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action?		<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">.54</p> acres					
b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed?		_____ acres					
c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor?		_____ acres					
4. Check all land uses that occur on, adjoining and near the proposed action.							
<input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural (non-agriculture) <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential (suburban)							
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____							
<input type="checkbox"/> Parkland							





18. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that result in the impoundment of water or other liquids (e.g. retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)? If Yes, explain purpose and size: _____	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location of an active or closed solid waste management facility? If Yes, describe: _____	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of remediation (ongoing or completed) for hazardous waste? If Yes, describe: _____	NO	YES
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>I AFFIRM THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE</b>		
Applicant/sponsor name: _____	Date: <u>07/17/21</u>	
Signature: 		

**Zoning Board to Fill out. Applicant does not fill out Part 2.**

**Part 2 - Impact Assessment.** The Lead Agency is responsible for the completion of Part 2. Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept "Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?"

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Will the proposed action impact existing:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. public / private water supplies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>









