FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPLICANT: Philip W. Evans, Jr. **ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**: 1st

CASE NUMBER: 2024-0089-V COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT: 7th

HEARING DATE: August 13, 2024 **PREPARED BY:** Sara Anzelmo

Planner

REQUEST

The applicant is requesting a variance to allow a dwelling addition (replacement deck) with less setbacks and buffer than required on property located at 306 Elm Street in Edgewater.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SITE

The subject property consists of 10,050 square feet of land and is located with 67.5 feet of frontage on the east side of Elm Street, approximately 140 feet north of Grande View Avenue. It is identified as Lots 27 & 28 of Parcel 241 in Grid 11 on Tax Map 65 in the subdivision of Beverley Beach.

The property is zoned R5 – Residential District, as adopted by the comprehensive zoning for Council District 7, effective October 7, 2011.

The lot is not waterfront, but it is located entirely within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area overlay and is designated as IDA - Intensely Developed Area. The Beverley Beach stream runs along the northern lot line. The property is currently improved with a single-family detached dwelling and associated facilities, including a rear deck that is the subject of this variance.

PROPOSAL

The applicant intends to replace in-kind an existing two-part deck (12' by 18' and 16' by 22') with a total deck area of 568 square feet.

REQUESTED VARIANCES

§ 18-13-104(a) of the Anne Arundel County Zoning Ordinance requires that there shall be a minimum 100-foot buffer landward from the mean high-water line of tidal waters, tributary streams, and tidal wetlands. Section 17-8-301 of the Subdivision and Development Code states that development on properties containing buffers shall meet the requirements of Title 27 of the State Code of Maryland (COMAR). Section 27.01.01(B)(8)(ii) of COMAR states a buffer exists "to protect a stream, tidal wetland, tidal waters, or terrestrial environment from human disturbance." Section 27.01.09 E.(1)(a)(ii) of COMAR authorizes disturbance to the buffer for a new development activity or redevelopment activity by variance. The entire deck is located within the buffer to the Beverley Beach stream, necessitating a variance to disturb the deck area plus an approximate 10-foot Limit of Disturbance (LOD) around the deck required for access during construction. If approved, the actual amount of disturbance would be determined at the time of permitting.

A review of the bulk regulations for development within an R5 District reveals that a zoning setback variance is not required.

FINDINGS

The subject property is rectangular in shape and exceeds the minimum 7,000 square foot area and minimum 60-foot width required for a lot in an R5 District. The existing critical area lot coverage is just shy of 3,100 square feet, and no additional lot coverage is proposed with this project.

The County 2024 aerial photograph shows that there are eight other nearby dwellings that are all or partially located within the 100-foot buffer to the Beverley Beach stream. The applicant's letter explains that the deck was constructed by the previous owner under an approved building permit (#B02238567, issued on May 17, 2007) and that the deck has fallen into disrepair and is in need of replacement.

The **Department of Health** has reviewed the well water supply system for the subject property and has determined that the request would not adversely affect this system. Therefore, the Department has no objection to the proposed variance.

The **Critical Area Commission** took no position on the variance request, but commented that appropriate mitigation is required.

The **Development Division (Critical Area Team)** has no objection to an in-kind replacement.

For the granting of a Critical Area variance, a determination must be made as to whether, because of certain unique physical conditions peculiar to and inherent in the particular property, strict implementation of the County's Critical Area Program would result in an unwarranted hardship. In this particular case, the property is a legal residential lot that is located entirely within the 100-foot stream buffer, and it is impossible to replace the failing deck without buffer disturbance. As such, a literal interpretation of the County's Critical Area Program would deprive the applicant of rights that are commonly enjoyed by other properties in similar areas by preventing much-needed repairs of the outdoor amenity area.

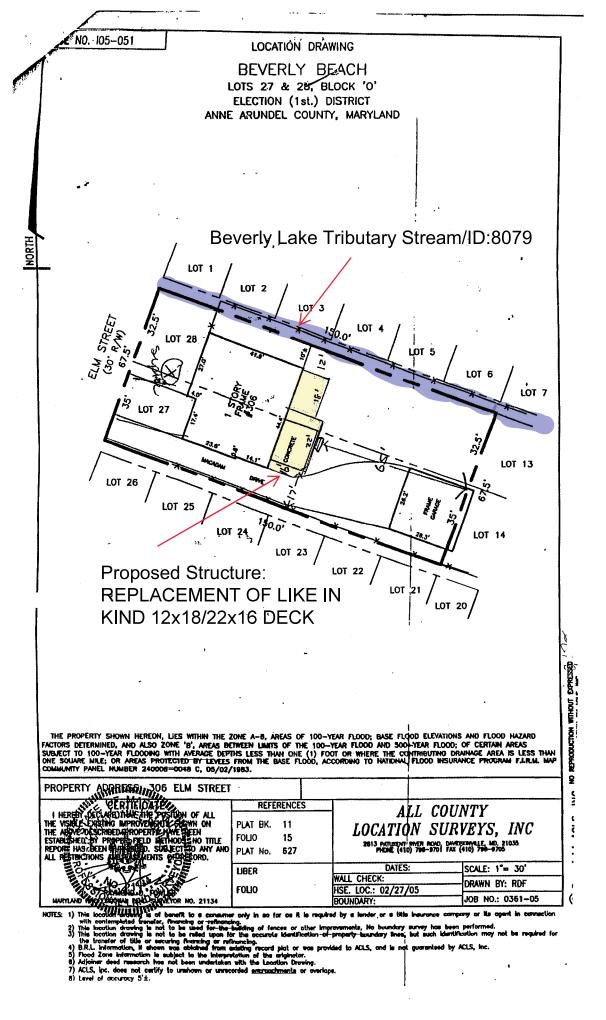
The granting of a critical area variance would not confer on the applicant a special privilege that would be denied by COMAR, Title 27. The variance request is not based on conditions or circumstances that are the result of actions by the applicant and does not arise from any condition relating to land or building use on any neighboring property. With proper mitigation, the variance would not adversely affect water quality or impact fish, wildlife, or plant habitat and would be in harmony with the general spirit and intent of the County's Critical Area Program. The applicant has overcome the presumption that the specific development does not conform to the general purpose and intent of the Critical Area law and has evaluated site planning alternatives.

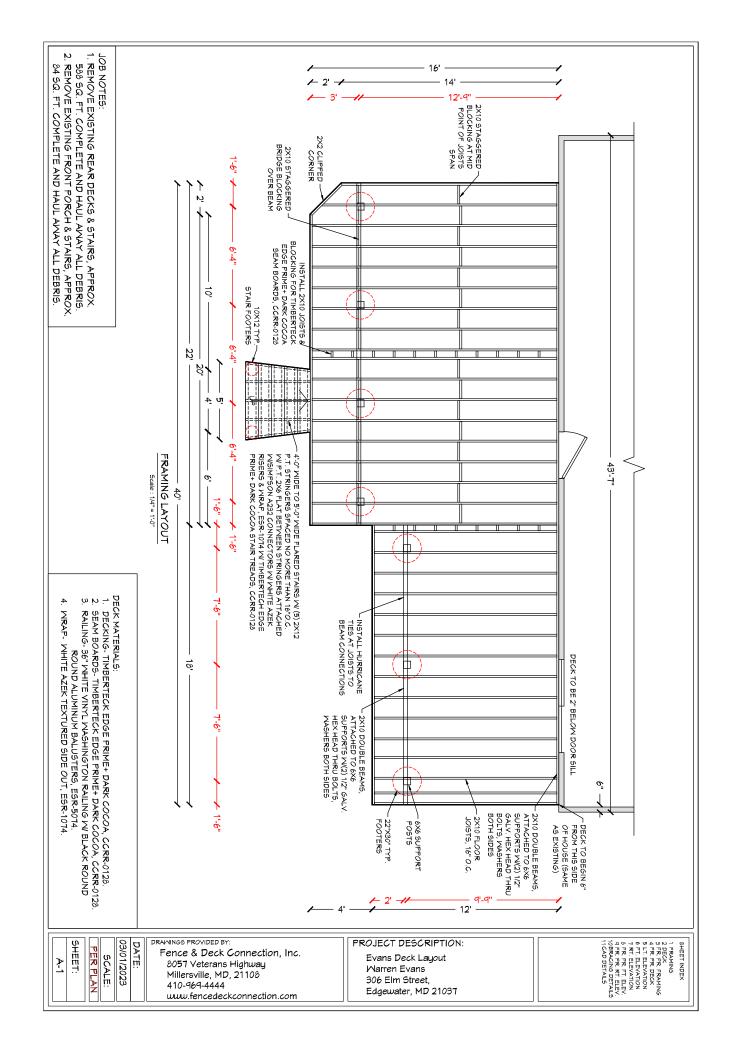
With regard to the requirements for all variances, approval would not alter the essential character of the neighborhood or substantially impair the appropriate use or development of the adjacent properties. The variances would not reduce forest cover in the limited development area, be contrary to acceptable clearing and replanting practices, or be detrimental to the public welfare. The applicant is not proposing any increase to the existing deck area, and there is no way to replace the deteriorating deck without buffer disturbance. As such, the proposal is considered to be the minimum necessary to afford relief.

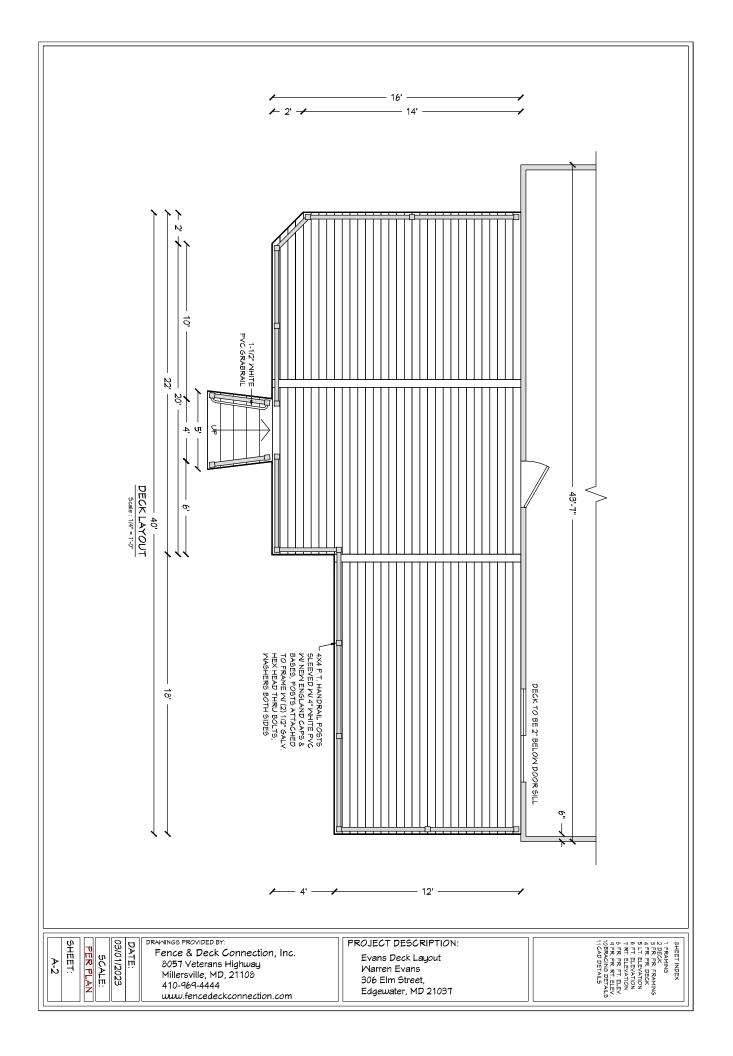
RECOMMENDATION

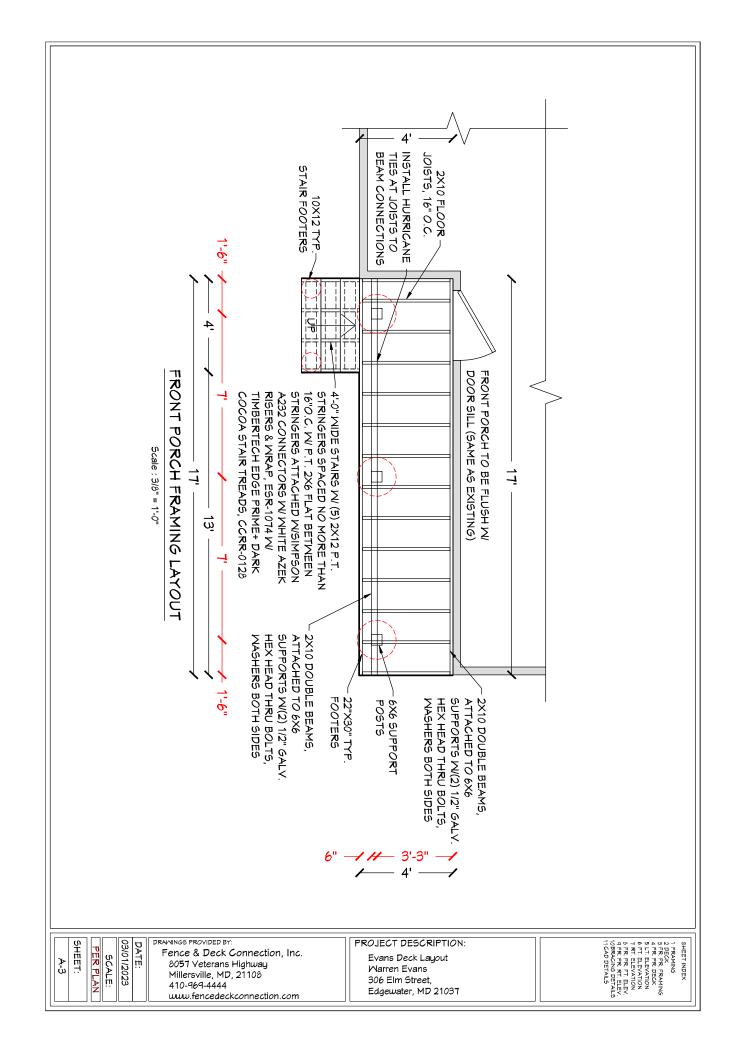
Based upon the standards set forth in § 18-16-305 of the Code under which a variance may be granted, this Office recommends *approval* of the proposed Critical Area variance.

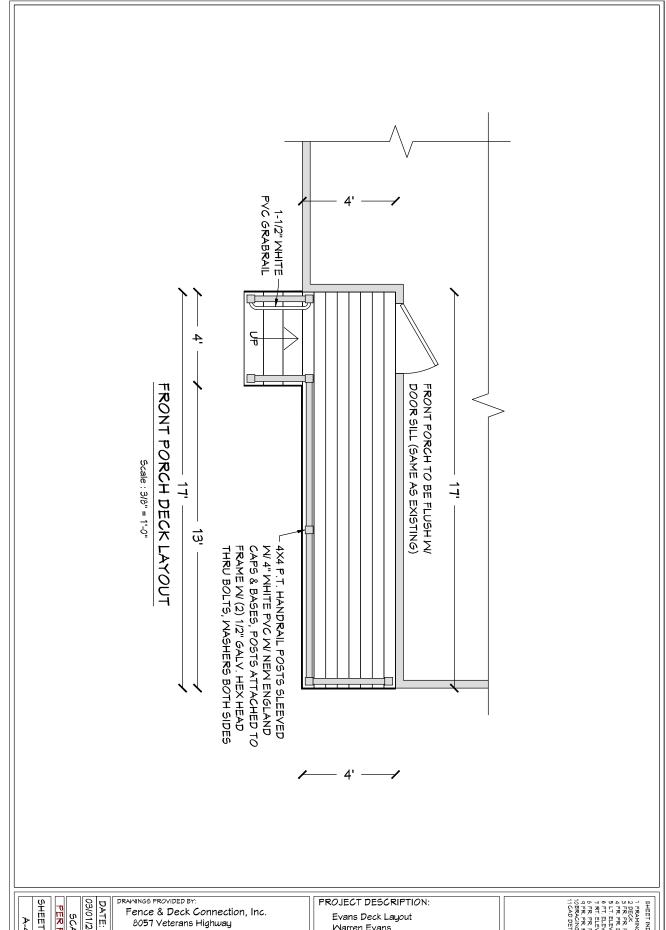
DISCLAIMER: This recommendation does not constitute a building permit. In order for the applicant to construct the structure(s) as proposed, the applicant shall apply for and obtain the necessary building permits, and obtain any other approvals required to perform the work described herein. This includes but is not limited to verifying the legal status of the lot, resolving adequacy of public facilities, and demonstrating compliance with environmental site design criteria.







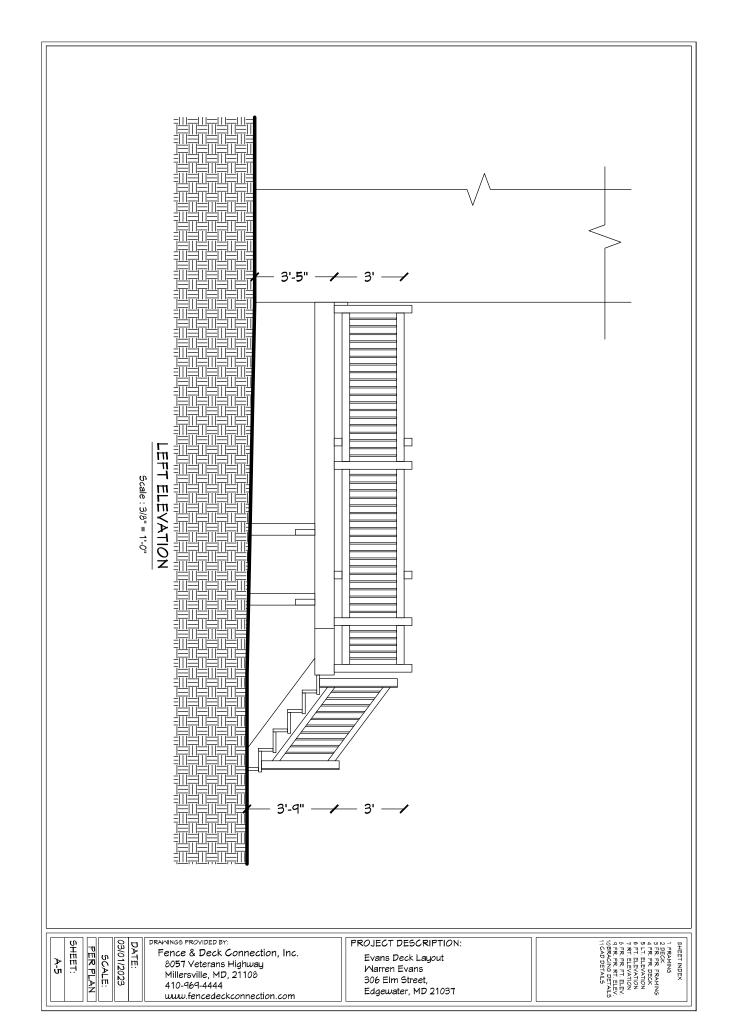


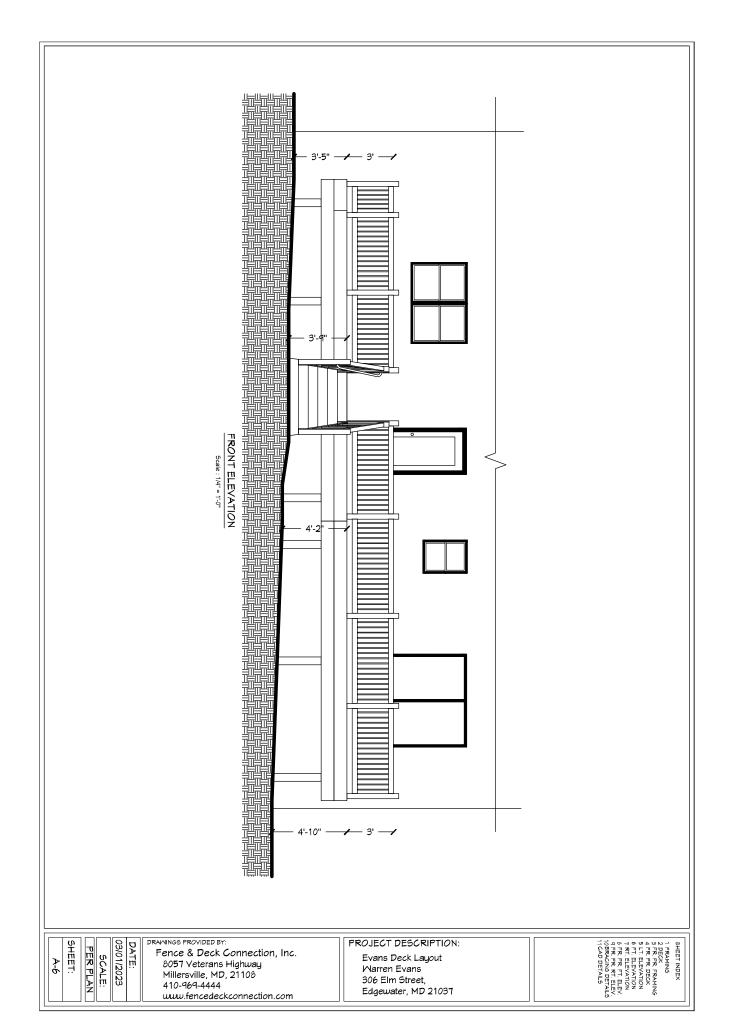


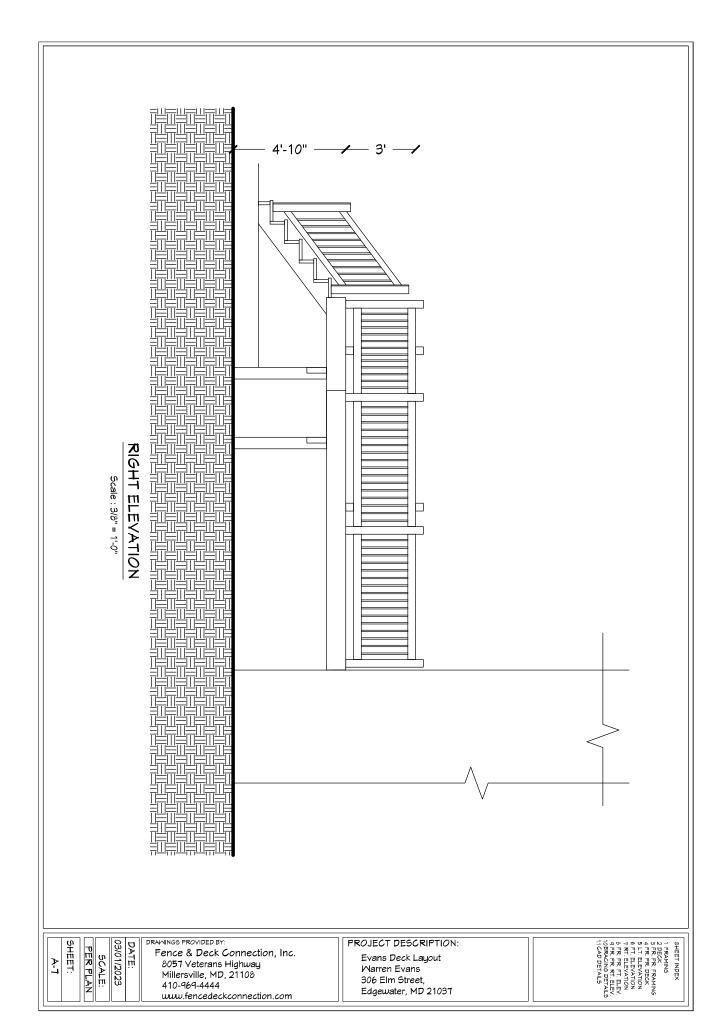
SHEET: 03/01/2023 PER PLAN SCALE: **≯** 4-

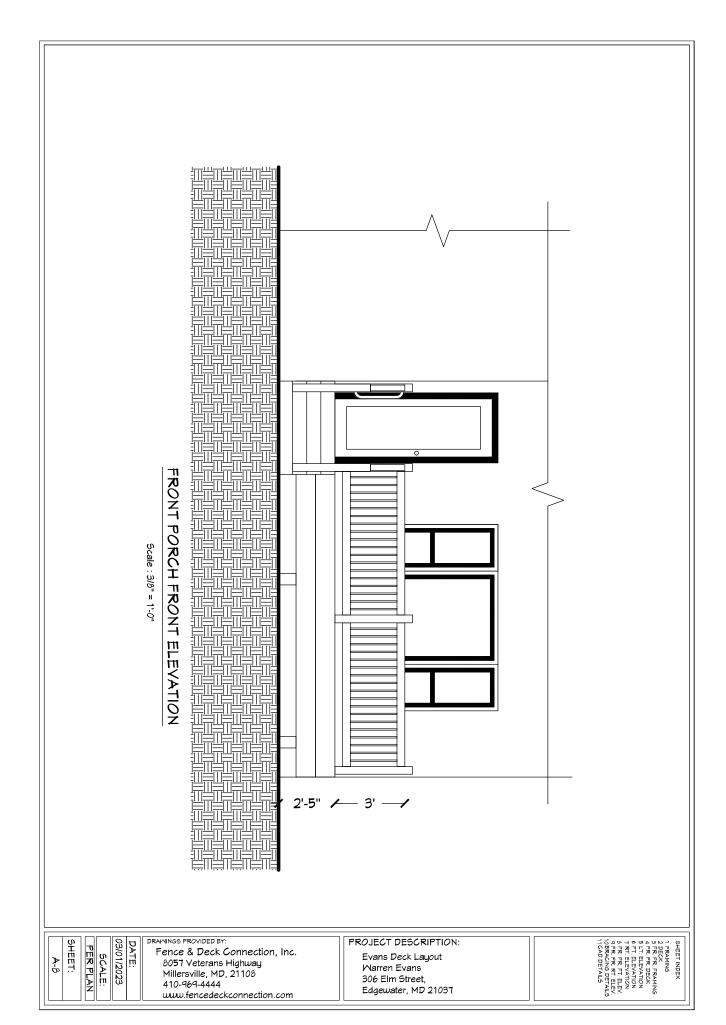
Fence & Deck Connection, Inc. 8057 Veterans Highway Millersville, MD, 21108 410-969-4444 www.fencedeckconnection.com

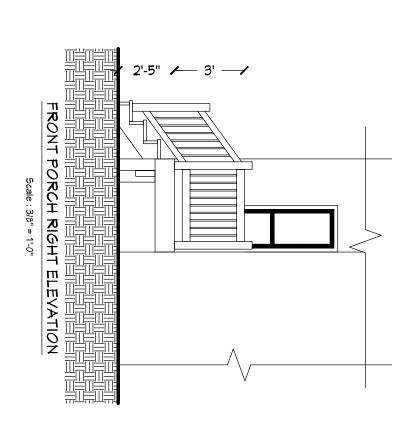
Evans Deck Layout Warren Evans 306 Elm Street, Edgewater, MD 21037 1 FRAMING
2 DE RENT FRAMING
5 FR. FR. FR. DECK
5 LT. ELEVATION
6 FT. ELEVATION
6 FR. FR. FT. ELEV
10 FRACING DETAILS
11 CAD DETAILS SHEET INDEX











DATE: 03/01/2023 SHEET: SCALE: **₽**

Fence & Deck Connection, Inc. 8057 Veterans Highway Millersville, MD, 21108 410-969-4444

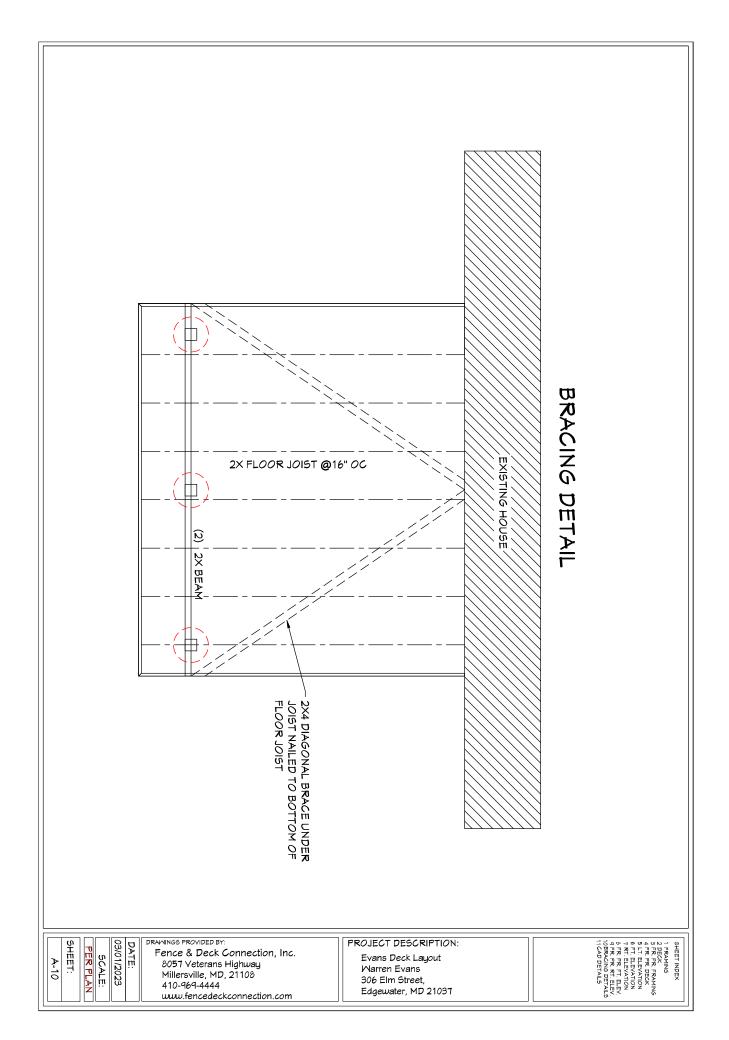
DRAWINGS PROVIDED BY:

www.fencedeckconnection.com

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Evans Deck Layout Warren Evans 306 Elm Street, Edgewater, MD 21037 SHEET INDEX

I FRAMING
DECK
DECK
SER FR FRAMING
SER FR FR FRAMING
SER FR FR FRAMING
OF THE SENTION
OF THE SENTI





Matthew S. Evans, III Owner
Jonathon Scruggs Partner
Michael Von Sas Associate
Caterina Sorrento Associate
Jessica Chandler Paralegal
Geniya Seager-Gilliam Paralegal

113 Cathedral Street Annapolis, MD 21401 410.626.6009 msevanslaw.com

May 7, 2024

Via US Mail Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning 2664 Riva Road Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Variance Application

Requested Deviation from 100' Tributary Stream Buffer

Letter of Explanation

Sir or Madam,

My office has been retained to assist Mr. Philip W. Evans, Jr. with a request for a variance to the 100' Tributary Stream Buffer for the replacement of an in-kind, previously approved, existing deck structure. The subject property is located at 306 Elm Street, Edgewater, Maryland 21037, is located within an Intensely Developed Area of the Critical Area Map of Anne Arundel County. The requested deviation to the Tributary Stream Buffer is approximately twenty-two (22) feet+/- as the entirety of Mr. Evans lot sits within the stream buffer.

Specifically, the property herein referenced is identified as follows:

Lot 27 and Lot 28 .23 Acres/10,050 sq ft 306 Elm Street, Edgewater, MD 21037

Tax Map: 65 Grid: 11 Lot: 27/28 Parcel: 241

LTS 27 28 SC 0 306 ELM ST BEVERLEY BEACH

By way of background, there are three principal structures located on the property at 306 Elm St; a single-family home erected in 1956, a free-standing garage erected sometime between 1956-1960, and an attached 12x18/22x16 deck structure that was erected pursuant to building permit B02238567, issued May 17, 2007. At the time, a site plan was filed and accepted showing the deck structure in relation to the other structures on the property. Exhibit 1 is attached hereto. At the time of construction, the applicant (Susan Blais) was required by Anne Arundel County to enter into a reforestation agreement and file an appropriate

reforestation security. Exhibit 2 is attached hereto. The Reforestation was completed to the satisfaction of the County and the security was ultimately released. Exhibit 3 is attached hereto.

Mr. Philip W. Evans, Jr., purchased the property in the summer of 2013 where he has resided since. In the spring of 2023 Mr. Evans contacted Fence and Deck Connections to assist with the replacement of the deck structure as it had fallen into a state of disrepair. Mr. Evans engaged their services to erect an inkind replacement of the deck as it currently exists.

During the process of obtaining a building permit, Fence and Deck Connection was informed that a variance to the 100' Tributary Stream Buffer would be required despite the deck being a replacement to a previously approved structure and not new construction. Mr. Evans now submits this request for a deviation from the critical area buffer (approximately twenty-two (22) feet+/-) in order to complete his anticipated project.

To support his application, Mr. Evans attaches to this letter of explanation a copy of the previously approved and accepted site plan (Exhibit 1), and a copy of the engineering plans for the erection of the deck (Exhibit 4).

The proposed variance is in keeping with the overall nature of the community, does not impose any hardship or undue imposition on the surrounding properties, and is the least restrictive measure to allow for the Applicant to proceed with his proposed construction. Again, it is worth noting that Mr. Evans is replacing a previously approved structure with one that is functionally identical.

The applicant further asserts that without a variance as requested, an undue hardship will be imposed. Specifically, that Mr. Evans will not be permitted to replace or repair a structure on his home that is in dire need of care.

All relevant documents, including the application for a variance, the attendant site plan, the list of adjoining properties, and the deed to the subject property have been attached for your review and reference.

Please direct all correspondence regarding this matter directly to my office at my attention.

Jonathon C. Scruggs

Jonathon C. Scruggs

Attorney at Law

CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS 1804 WEST STREET, SUITE 100 ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

PROJECT NOTIFICATION APPLICATION

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Jurisdiction:	Anne Arundel	Date: May 1, 2024									
		FOR RESUBMITTAL ONLY									
Tax Map #	Parcel #	Block #	Lot #	Section	Corrections						
0065	0241	O	27	0	Redesign						
					No Change						
					Non-Critical Area						
					*Complete Only Page 1						
Tax ID: 0104605358900 Ceneral Project Information											
General Project Information											
Project Name (site name, subdivision name, or other) Philip W. Evans, Jr.											
	•			· •							
Project location	on/Address	306 Elm Stree	et								
	•		•								
City Edgewater Zip 21037-4830											
7 1205011	<u> </u>				, , ======						
Local case nu	mber B0223	8567									
		0507									
Applicant:	Last name	Evans, Jr.			First name Philip						
r approxime.	20000 11001110	L vans, vi.			1 milp						
Company											
Company											
Application Type (check all that apply):											
11		11 37									
Building Pern	nit	$\overline{X}X$		Variance	\overline{XX}						
Buffer Manag				Rezoning	П						
Conditional U				Site Plan	П						
Consistency F	Report			Special Except	ion 🗍						
Disturbance >	5,000 sq ft			Subdivision							
Grading Perm				Other	П						
C											
Local Jurisdiction Contact Information:											
Last name	AACo Zoning	Administration	n Section	First name							
-	410 222 7427		_	_	TDD						
Phone #	410-222-7437		Respo	nse from Comn	nission Required By TBD						

SPECIFIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Describe Proposed use	of project	site:					
Repair and replace in kin	nd an exis	ting deck s	tructure cons	tructed pursuant to building perr	nit dated M	av 23, 2007	
(B02238567)						,,	
(= =========	Yes				Yes		
Intra-Family Transfer				Growth Allocation			
	H				H		
Grandfathered Lot				Buffer Exemption Are	Buffer Exemption Area		
Project Type (check al	l that app	oly)					
Commercial				Recreational			
Consistency Report	Ħ			Redevelopment			
Industrial				Residential XX			
	H						
Institutional	片			Shore Erosion Control	=		
Mixed Use	Щ			Water-Dependent Fac	111ty		
Other							
				_			
SITE INVENTORY (I	Enter acro	es or squai	re feet)				
			~ ~		Acres	Sq Ft	
		es	Sq Ft	Total Disturbed Area		636	
IDA Area		10),050			1 030	
LDA Area							
RCA Area				# of Lots Created			
Total Area		10,050					
			- ,	_			
		Acres	Sq Ft		Acres	Sq Ft	
Existing Forest/Woodland		5000	Existing Lot Coverage		3099.46		
Created Forest/Woodland	/Trees		0.00	New Lot Coverage		3099.46	
Removed Forest/Woodlan		0.00	Removed Lot Coverage		0.00		
		0.00	Total Lot Coverage		3099.46		
				Total Bot coverage	1	3099.40	
VARIANCE INFORM	IATION	Check all	that apply)				
		(······································				
		Acres	Sq Ft		Acres	Sq Ft	
Buffer Disturbance			636	Buffer Forest Clearing		0.00	
Non-Buffer Disturbance			0.00	Mitigation		0.00	
			1 2122	1 5		1 0.00	
<u>Variance Type</u>				<u>Structure</u>			
Buffer \[\bar{\bar{\bar{\bar{\bar{\bar{\bar{	Acc. Structure Addition						
Forest Clearing	Barn						
			Deck				
HPA Impact							
Lot Coverage			Dwelling \square				
Expanded Buffer			Dwelling Addition				
			Garage				
			Gazebo				
			Patio				
· · · · · =							
Other	Ħ			Dool			
Other			 -	Pool			
Other	Ī			Pool Shed Dther			



May 21, 2024

CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA REPORT Evans Property 306 Elm St. Edgewater, MD 21037

Tax Map 65/Grid O/Parcel 241/R5/IDA

VARIANCE NARRATIVE:

By way of background, there are three (3) principal structures located on the property at 306 Elm Street; a single-family home erected in 1956, a free-standing garage erected sometime between 1956-1960, and an attached 12x18/22x16 deck structure that was erected pursuant to building permit B02238567, issued May 17, 2007. At the time, a site plan was filed and accepted showing the deck structure in relation to the other structures on the property. Exhibit 1 is attached hereto. At the time of construction, the applicant (Susan Blais) was required by Anne Arundel County to enter into a reforestation agreement and file an appropriate reforestation security. Exhibit 2 is attached hereto. The Reforestation was completed to the satisfaction of the County and the security was ultimately released. Exhibit 3 is attached hereto.

Mr. Philip W. Evans, Jr., purchased the property in the summer of 2013 where he has resided since. In the spring of 2023 Mr. Evans contacted Fence and Deck Connections to assist with the replacement of the deck structure as it had fallen into a state of disrepair. Mr. Evans engaged their services to erect an in-kind replacement of the deck as it currently exists.

During the process of obtaining a building permit, Fence and Deck Connection was informed that a variance to the 100' Tributary Stream Buffer would be required despite the deck being a replacement to a previously approved structure and not new construction. Mr. Evans now submits this request for a maximum of ten (10) feet from the critical area buffer in order to complete his anticipated project.

The proposed variance is in keeping with the overall nature of the community, does not impose any hardship or undue imposition on the surrounding properties, and is the least restrictive measure to allow for the Applicant to proceed with his proposed construction. Again, it is worth noting that Mr. Evans is replacing a previously approved structure with one that is functionally identical.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Mr. Evans's lot is approximately 10,050. sq ft in size (site plan attached). The site consists of mowed lawn, mature and growth trees, and shrubs surrounding the property.

As stated, there are three improvements on the lot: a single-family home, a deck, and a detached garage. The spoil is stabilized. No tidal or non-tidal wetlands are located on the lot.

CRITICAL AREA NARRATIVE:

Existing and Proposed Vegetation Coverage:

As it currently exists, the lot has a small lawn with mostly large trees and shrubs. No tree clearing will be required for the construction of the replacement deck, Any stormwater management will be required at permit review.

Existing and Proposed Stormwater and Water Quality:

As it currently exists the property was subject to planting/mitigation during the erection of the original deck. All plantings were performed as requested and passed inspection. All plantings have remained on the property. No additional clearing will be required.

Existing and Proposed Aquatic Resources:

There will be no impact on the water quality or aquatic resources present within the stream buffer.

Existing and Proposed Forest Clearing and Impervious Coverage:

There will be no tree clearing or tree removal on the project. Forest cover is present on site.

AFFIRMATION:

The requested variance is for the construction of a replacement in-kind deck located within the 100 ft stream buffer. No adverse impact to fish, wildlife, and or plant habitat or water quality will occur.

Sincerely,

Jonathon C. Scruggs Jonathon C. Scruggs

Attorney at Law



J. Howard Beard Health Services Building 3 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Phone: 410-222-7095 Fax: 410-222-7294 Maryland Relay (TTY): 711 www.aahealth.org

Tonii Gedin, RN, DNP Health Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sadé Medina, Zoning Applications

Planning and Zoning Department, MS-6301

FROM: Brian Chew, Program Manager

Bureau of Environmental Health

DATE: June 10, 2024

RE: Philip W. Evans Jr.

306 Elm Street

Edgewater, MD 21037

NUMBER: 2024-0089-V

SUBJECT: Variance/Special Exception/Rezoning

The Health Department has reviewed the above referenced variance to allow a dwelling with less setbacks than required.

The Health Department has reviewed the well water supply system for the above referenced property. The Health Department has determined that the proposed request does not adversely affect the well water supply system. The Health Department has no objection to the above referenced request.

If you have further questions or comments, please contact Brian Chew at 410-222-7413.

cc: Sterling Seay



CAC Comments_2024-0089-V Evans (AA 128-24); 2024-0102-V Klink (AA 132-24)

Jennifer Esposito jennifer.esposito@maryland.gov>
To: Sadé Medina pzmedi22@aacounty.org>

Cc: Charlotte Shearin - DNR- < charlotte.shearin@maryland.gov>

Mon, Jun 10, 2024 at 3:19 PM

Good afternoon,

The Critical Area Commission has reviewed the following variances and appropriate mitigation is required:

- 2024-0089-V; Evans (AA 128-24);
- 2024-0102-V; Klink (AA 132-24);

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

The above comments have been uploaded to the County's online portal.



Jennifer Esposito

Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays 1804 West Street, Suite 100 Annapolis, MD 21401

Office: 410-260-3468

(In office: Mon., Wed., Friday)

Cell: 443-569-1361

(Teleworking: Tues., Thurs.) jennifer.esposito@maryland.gov

2024-0089-V

Menu Cancel Help Task
OPZ Critical Area Team
Assigned to Department
OPZ Critical Area
Action by Department
OPZ Critical Area
Start Time Assigned Date 05/24/2024 Status Complete w/ Comments Due Date Due Date 06/14/2024 Assigned to Kelly Krinetz Action By Kelly Krinetz End Time Status Date 05/24/2024 Hours Spent 0.0 Comments Billable Overtime No No No Start Date St. Completion Date In Possession Time (hrs)
Display E-mail Address in ACA Display Comment in ACA

No All ACA Users

Comments
In Possession Time (hrs)
All ACA Users All ACA Users Record Creator Licensed Professional Contact Owner Action Updated Workflow Calendar **Estimated Hours** Task Specific Information **Expiration Date** Review Notes Reviewer Name

Reviewer Phone Number

Reviewer Email

