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

#### **APPLICANT:** Winston & Carolyn Dunkley

#### ASSESSMENT DISTRICT: 2

**CASE NUMBER:** 2024-0201-V

HEARING DATE: February 11, 2025

# **COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 6

PREPARED BY: Jennifer Lechner Planner

#### **REQUEST**

The applicants are requesting a variance to allow a dwelling addition (porch and deck) with less setbacks than required on property located at 1329 Washington Drive in Annapolis.

## **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SITE**

The subject site consists of 5,000 square feet of land and is located with frontage on the south side of Washington Drive. It is identified as Lot 52 of Block 4 on Plat 1 in the Oyster Harbor subdivision, Parcel 8 in Grid 21 on Tax Map 57. The property is zoned R2 – Residential District, and lies entirely within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area LDA – Limited Development Area. It is improved with a one-story dwelling and associated facilities.

#### **PROPOSAL**

The applicants propose to construct a covered front porch (approximately 5'  $\times$  26') and an open side deck (approximately 3'  $\times$  13.5'), both with steps to grade.

#### **REQUESTED VARIANCES**

§ 18-2-301(f) of the Anne Arundel County Zoning Ordinance provides that a single-family detached dwelling on a lot that does not meet the area or width requirements may be expanded if the expansion is set back at least 25 feet from the front lot line. The proposed porch would be constructed as close as 19 feet from the front lot line, necessitating a variance of 6 feet.<sup>1</sup>

#### **FINDINGS**

The subject property is rectangular in shape and undersized for lots in the R2 District, with regard to the minimum lot size of 15,000 square feet, if served by public sewer, and the minimum lot width of 80 feet. A review of the County aerial photography shows that the lots in this waterfront community are generally undersized, and the dwellings are closer to the property lines than required.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Administrative Site Plan erroneously notes that the proposed porch would be as close as 22 feet from the front lot line. However, the location survey showing the existing conditions indicates that the dwelling is 24 feet from the front lot line. Therefore, a 5 foot deep porch would be 19 feet from the front lot line, requiring a variance of 6 feet. A revised site plan was not received at the time of this report.

Building permit B02431842, to remove the existing front and side steps and to construct a porch and deck, was submitted on December 10, 2024. Variance approval must be obtained prior to the permit being issued.

1331 Washington Drive (property to the east) was granted a variance, 1997-0311-V, to allow a 2-story dwelling addition to be as close as 12 feet from the front lot line.

1327 Washington Drive (property to the west) was granted a variance, 2014-0005-V, to allow an uncovered deck to be as close as 21 feet to the front lot line.

1326 Washington Drive (property to the north, across the street) was granted a variance, 2018-0013-V, to allow a dwelling as close as 11 feet to the rear (roadside) property line.

The applicant's letter explains that decks and porches are common amenities in their community, and that they wish to add a front porch in order to have a space to enjoy the view and to communicate easily with neighbors.

#### Agency Comments

The **Health Department** has determined that the proposed request does not adversely affect the well water supply system and has no objection to the request.

#### Variance Criteria

For the granting of a variance, a determination must be made as to whether, because of certain unique physical conditions peculiar to and inherent in the particular lot, or because of exceptional circumstances other than financial considerations, strict implementation of the Code would result in practical difficulties or an unnecessary hardship.

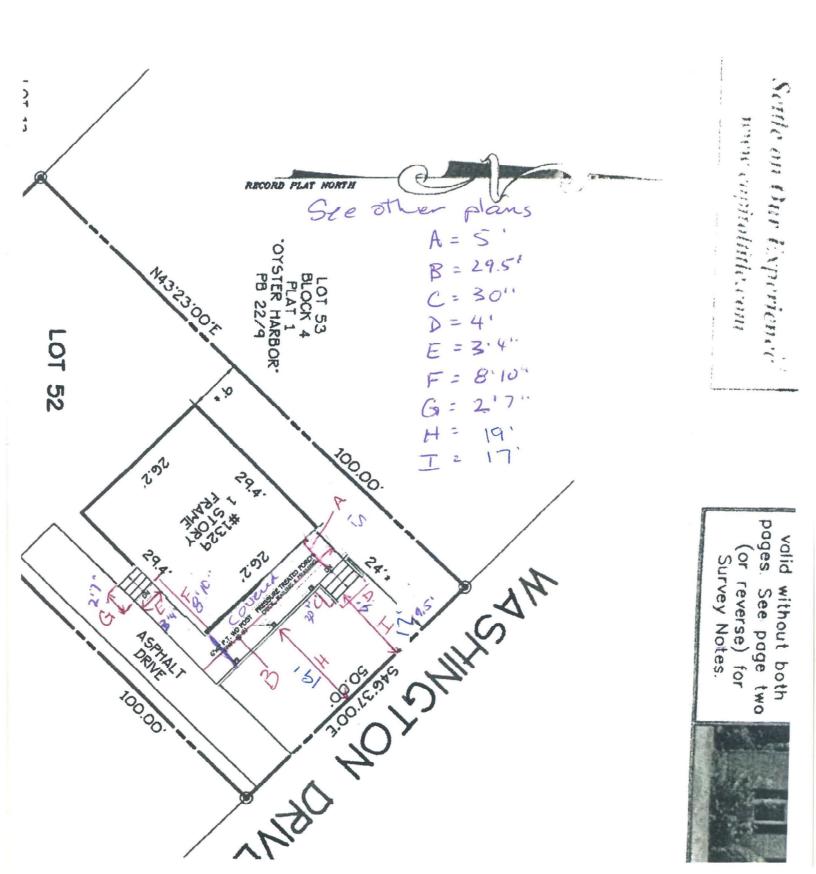
In this particular case, the subject property is severely undersized for the zoning district, and the dwelling itself does not meet the minimum front setback for lots in the R2 district, nor for dwellings on a nonconforming lot. There would be no possibility of designing a front porch that would meet the required setbacks.

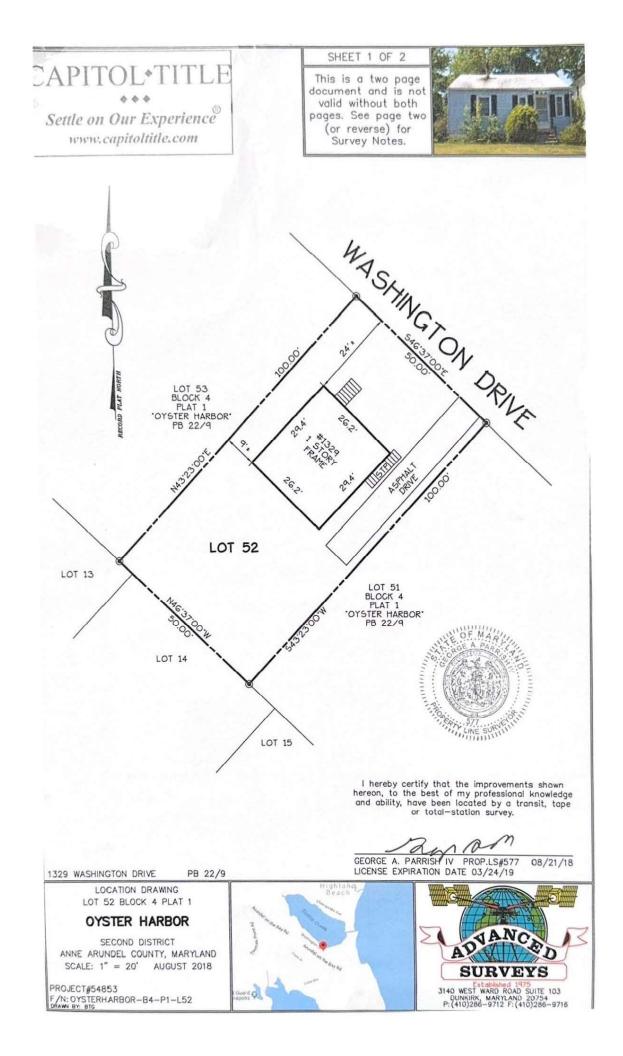
Porches are common amenities in this neighborhood and several properties had been granted setback variances to allow improvements closer to the road. Therefore, the granting of a variance at the subject property would not alter the essential character of the neighborhood or district in which the lot is located, would not substantially impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property, nor would it be detrimental to the public welfare.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Based upon the standards set forth in § 18-16-305 of the Code under which a variance may be granted, this Office recommends <u>approval</u> of the requested variances to § 18-2-301(f) to allow a dwelling with less setbacks than required.

DISCLAIMER: This recommendation does not constitute a building permit. In order for the applicant(s) to construct the structure(s) as proposed, the applicant(s) 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.





November 4, 2924

To Whom It May Concern:

Most houses in the neighborhood of Oyster Harbor have some type of attached outdoor decks or porches. In order to have a space to sit outside to enjoy the view and be able to communicate easily with neighbors, we are seeking to add a front porch to the existing house, that will be 20 feet across and 5 feet wide, a total of approximately 100 square feet. The approximate height is 12 feet. The setbacks are 7 an 13 feet, approximately 20 feet. This includes: facing the property, house to the right is 7 feet and the house to the left is 13 feet. This property is located across the street from Oyster Creek. The lot size is 5,000 square feet.

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

#### PROJECT NOTIFICATION APPLICATION

### **GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION**

Jurisdiction:					Date: 11.4.2024
				<u> </u>	FOR RESUBMITTAL ONLY
Tax Map #	Parcel #	Block #	Lot #	Section	Corrections
259704254700		4	52		Redesign
					No Change
	0008				Non-Critical Area
					*Commisto Only Page 1
Tax ID: 042	265400				*Complete Only Page 1 General Project Information
Γ				1	
Project Name	(site name, su	ubdivision nan	ne, or other)	Oyster Harbor	
		1			
Project location	on/Address	1329 Washingto	n Drive		
City Annanal					7:
City Annapol	IS				Zip 21403
Local case nu	mher				
Local case hu					
Applicant:	Last name	Dunkley			First name Winston
		y			
Company Ow	ner				
Application '	Type (check a	ll that apply)	):		
		_			_
Building Perr		x		Variance	x
Buffer Manag				Rezoning	
Conditional U				Site Plan	
Consistency I	1			Special Except	ion
Disturbance >	> 5,000 sq ft			Subdivision	
Grading Perm	nit			Other	
Local Jurisd	iction Contac	t Information	1:		
Last name				First name	
Phone #			Respo	nse from Comm	ission Required By
			p •		1 2
Fax #				_ Hearing date	

## SPECIFIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Describe Proposed use of project site:

Add porch to existing proper	t					
Intra-Family Transfer Grandfathered Lot	Yes	Growth Allocation Buffer Exemption Area	Yes			
Project Type (check all that apply)						
Commercial Consistency Report Industrial Institutional Mixed Use Other		Recreational Redevelopment Residential Shore Erosion Control Water-Dependent Facility				

# SITE INVENTORY (Enter acres or square feet)

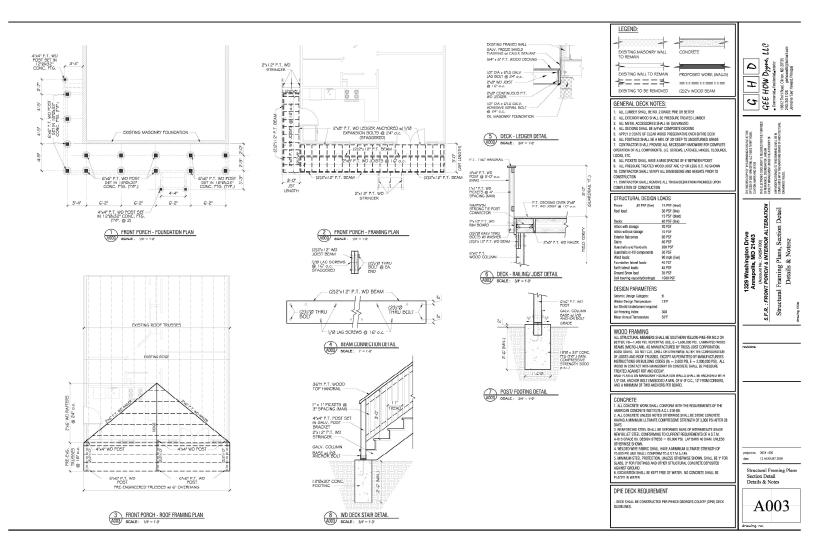
	Acres	Sq Ft	_ Total Disturbed Area	Acres	Sq Ft
IDA Area		5000			
LDA Area					
RCA Area			# of Lots Created		
Total Area		5000			

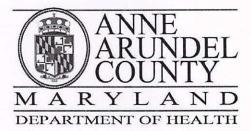
	Acres	Sq Ft		Acres	Sq Ft
Existing Forest/Woodland/Trees			Existing Lot Coverage		
Created Forest/Woodland/Trees			New Lot Coverage		
Removed Forest/Woodland/Trees			Removed Lot Coverage		
			Total Lot Coverage		

# VARIANCE INFORMATION (Check all that apply)

	Acres	Sq Ft			Acres	Sq Ft
Buffer Disturbance			Buffer Forest Clearing			
Non-Buffer Disturbance			Mitigation			
Variance Type			Structure			
Buffer		Ac	c. Structure Addition			
Forest Clearing		Ba	rn			
HPA Impact		De	ck			
Lot Coverage		Dw	velling			
Expanded Buffer		Dw	velling Addition			
Nontidal Wetlands		Ga	rage			
Setback		Ga	zebo			
Steep Slopes		Pat	tio			
Other		Po	ool			
		She	ed			
		Otl	ner	X Po	rch	

This is a residential property project. There are no trees on the property that will be disturbed. There are 3 small shrubs that will be replanted once the project is completed. Approximately, 100 sq. Feet will be disturbed by the proposed development. There will no need for water quality and habitat control. Regarding impervious coverage, approximately 100 square feet will be disturbed.





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

#### <u>MEMORANDUM</u>

TO: Sadé Medina, Zoning Applications Planning and Zoning Department, MS-6301

FROM: Brian Chew, Program Manager Bureau of Environmental Health

DATE: December 20, 2024

- RE: Winston P. Dunkley 1329 Washington Drive Annapolis, MD 21403
- NUMBER: 2024-0201-V

SUBJECT: Variance/Special Exception/Rezoning

The Health Department has reviewed the above referenced variance to allow a dwelling addition (porch and deck) 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

# 1329 Washington Drive (2024-0201-V)

