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

APPLICANT: Robert L. Lentz ASSESSMENT DISTRICT: 3

CASE NUMBER: 2025-0026-V COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT: 5

HEARING DATE: April 10, 2025 PREPARED BY: Sara Anzelmo

Planner

REQUEST

The applicant is requesting a variance to allow a dwelling addition (screened porch with multiple stoops and steps) with less setbacks than required on property located at 320 Jennings Road in Severna Park.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SITE

The subject site consists of 15,000 square feet of land and is located on the east and north sides of Jennings Road. It is identified as Lot 33 of Parcel 583 in Grid 23 on Tax Map 23 in the Park Ridge subdivision.

The property is zoned R2 – Residential District. It is currently improved with a two-story single-family detached dwelling with a basement and other associated facilities.

PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to construct a screened porch measuring approximately 18.93' by 20' with two landings and three sets of steps to grade on the rear of the existing dwelling.

REQUESTED VARIANCES

§ 18-4-601 of the Anne Arundel County Zoning Ordinance provides that a principal structure in an R2 District shall be set back a minimum of 20 feet from the corner side lot line. The proposed screened porch would be constructed as close as 19.06 feet from the corner side lot line, necessitating a variance of one foot.

§ 18-2-301(b) provides that an architectural feature that does not contain floor area, including steps required for access or a stoop that does not exceed five feet by five feet, may extend no more than three feet into a required setback. The proposed stoop and steps would project 3.39 feet into the required setback (or 16.61 feet from the corner side lot line at its closest point), necessitating a variance of one foot to the maximum projection allowance.

FINDINGS

The subject property is irregular in shape and meets the minimum 15,000 square foot area and the minimum 80-foot width required at the front building restriction line for a lot served by public sewer in an R2 District.

The applicant's letter explains that the requested variance is the minimal necessary to afford relief based upon the unique shape of the lot. Due to the existing road configuration, the lot was platted with an 80' width at the front lot line fronting Jennings Road, but narrowing to only 44' at the rear property line. Due to the unique lot configuration and the corner side lot line setback, the ability to improve the rear of the house, as typical of single-family homes, is not practical without a variance.

The **Health Department** commented that the property is served by public water and sewer facilities. Therefore, the Department has no objection to the request.

The **Cultural Resources Section** commented that this property is located on a designated Scenic and Historic Road (Category 3), Jennings Road, and is subject to Article 17-6-504 compliance. The proposed work is unlikely to have an adverse effect, but development applications should include appropriate cover notes and labels identifying the scenic and historic road in the plans, as well as provide a 14-point response to the criteria in Article 17-6-504.

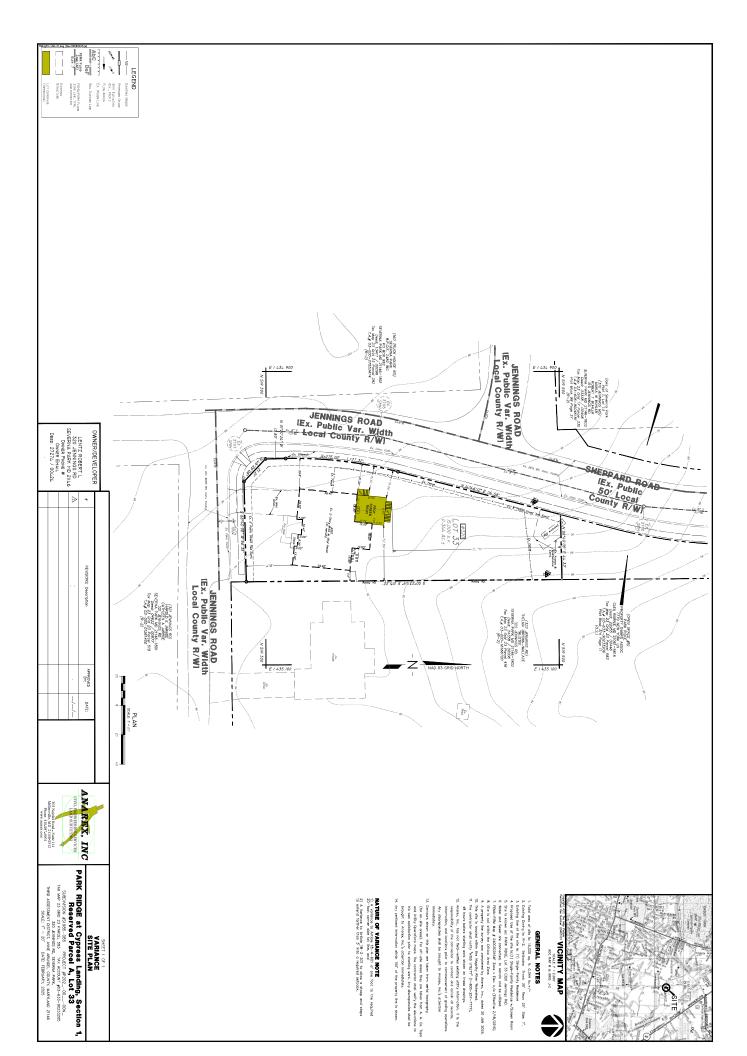
For the granting of a zoning variance, a determination must be made as to whether, because of certain unique physical conditions peculiar to and inherent in the particular lot or because of exceptional circumstances other than financial considerations, strict implementation of the Code would result in practical difficulties or an unnecessary hardship. The need sufficient to justify a variance must be substantial and urgent and not merely for the convenience of the applicant. While the applicant points to a narrowing of the lot toward the rear as a unique condition causing the need for the variance, it is unclear why simply reducing the sizable screened porch by just under one foot in order to meet the minimum setback requirement would deny the applicant reasonable use of the property. Such a reduction would eliminate the need for both variances.

Approval of the variance would not necessarily alter the essential character of the neighborhood, substantially impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property, or be detrimental to the public welfare. However, because the variance could be avoided easily with only a minor adjustment, the variance is not warranted and cannot be considered 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 *denial* of the requested zoning setback variance.

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.





303 Najoles Road - Suite 114 Millersville, MD 21108

February 11, 2025

Phone: 410-987-6901

Fax: 410-987-0589

Ms. Sterling Seay Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning 2664 Riva Road Annapolis MD 21401

> Re: Park Ridge, Lot 33 320 Jennings Road T.M. 23 B. 23 P. 583

Dear Ms. Seay,

Please accept this as our formal variance request to the Zoning Regulations on behalf of our client regarding setbacks. The variance requests are to Article 18, Section 4-601 of one foot to the required 20-foot corner side lot line and to Article 18-2-301(b) of one foot to allow a stoop and steps to extend more than 3' into a required setback.

We are requesting this variance to allow for a screen room to be built off the rear of the existing house. The screen room will be 19' x 20' and will sit back 19'+/- from the corner side lot line.

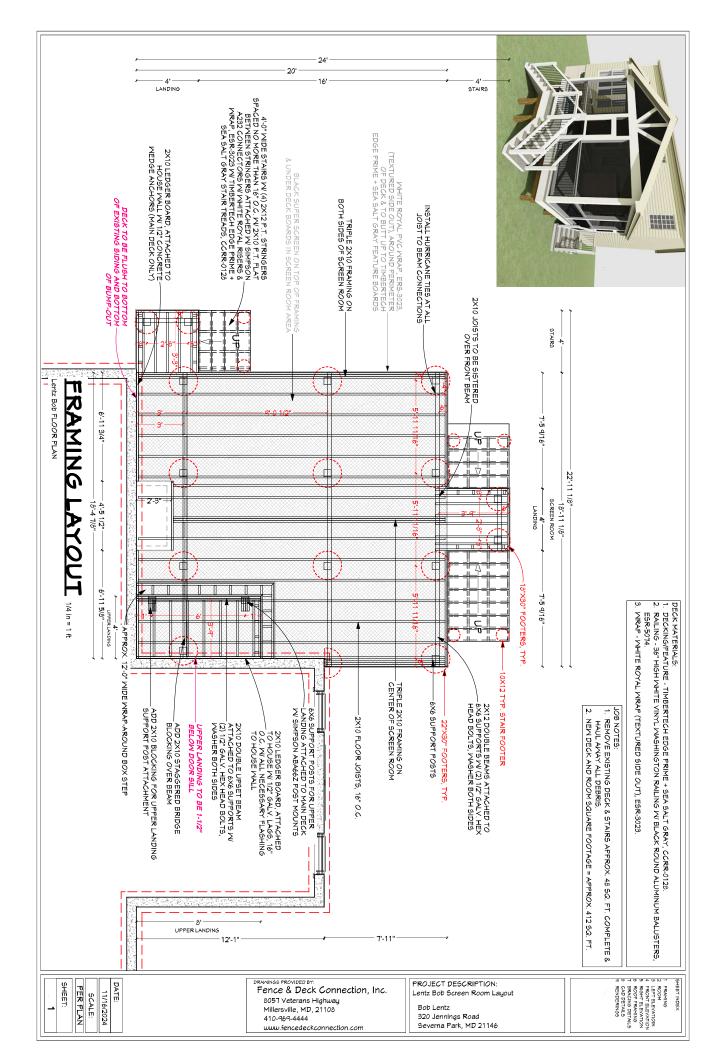
Explanation as required by Article 18, Section 16-305

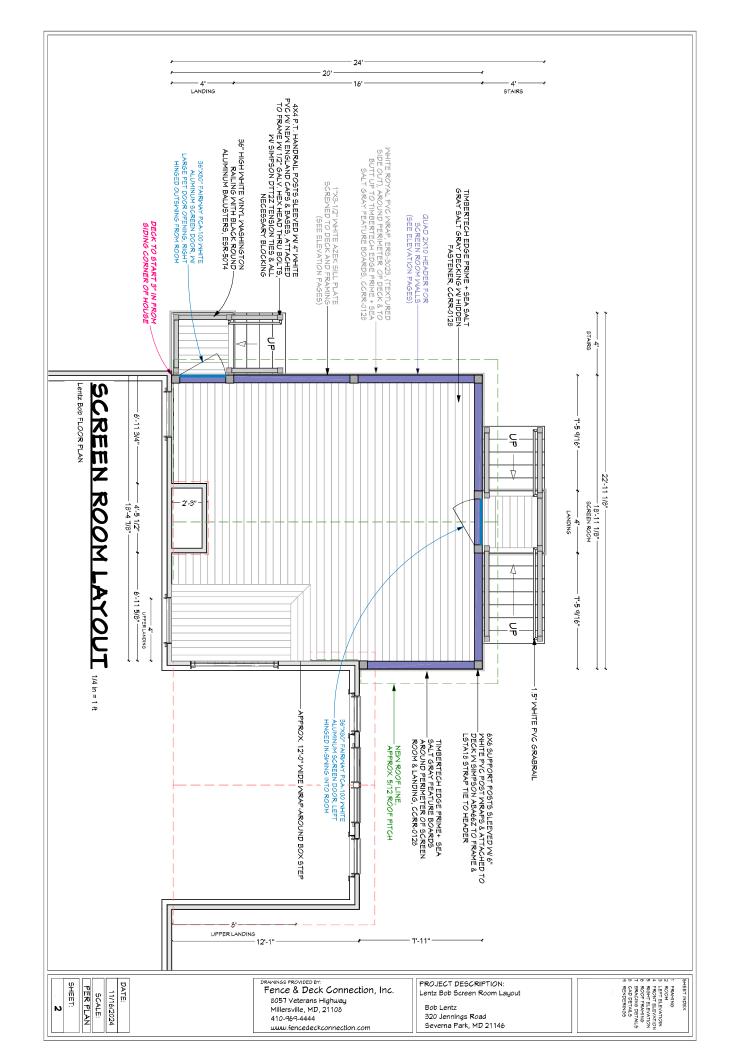
We believe the granting of this variance is warranted because the requested variance is the minimal necessary to afford relief based upon the unique shape of the lot. Due to the existing road configuration, the lot was platted with an 80' width at the front lot line fronting Jennings Road, but narrowing to only 44' at the rear property line. Due to the unique lot configuration and the corner side lot line setback, the ability to improve the rear of the house, as typical of single-family homes, is not practical without a variance. The granting of this variance will not alter the character of the neighborhood as the house will not change and decks/screen porches are typical improvements on single family dwellings. This variance will not impair the appropriate use or development of the surrounding property as it will not deny access or the possibility to build on neighboring lots. The granting of this variance will not be detrimental to the welfare of the public. The lot is not in the critical area.

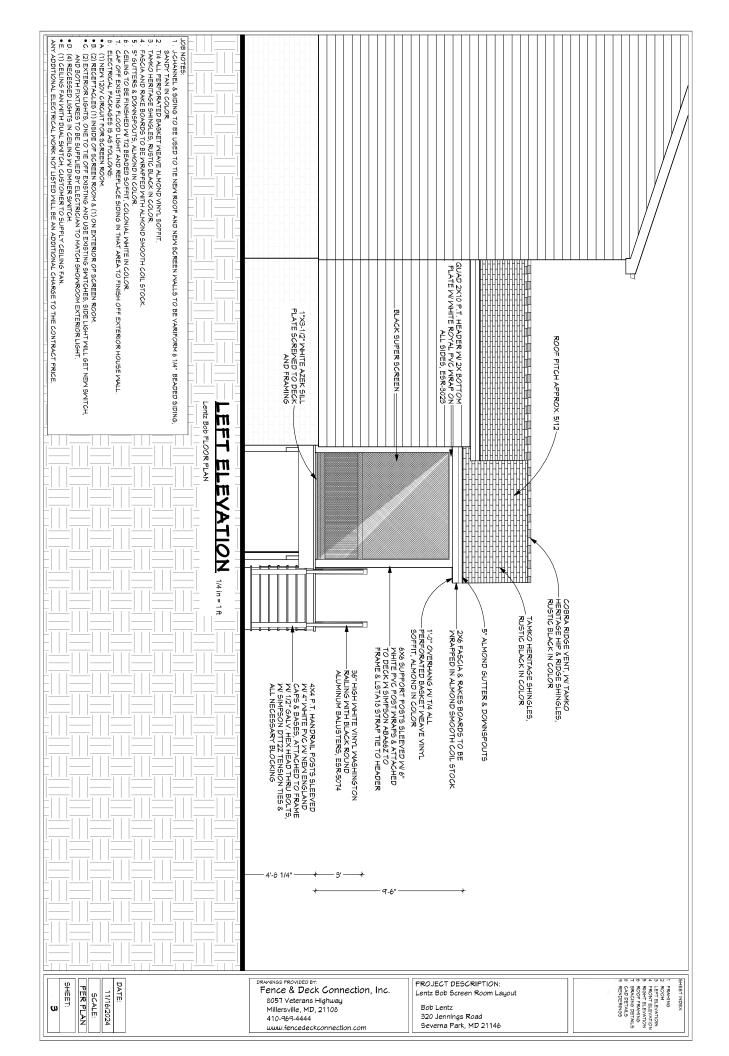
If you have any questions or need any additional information please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

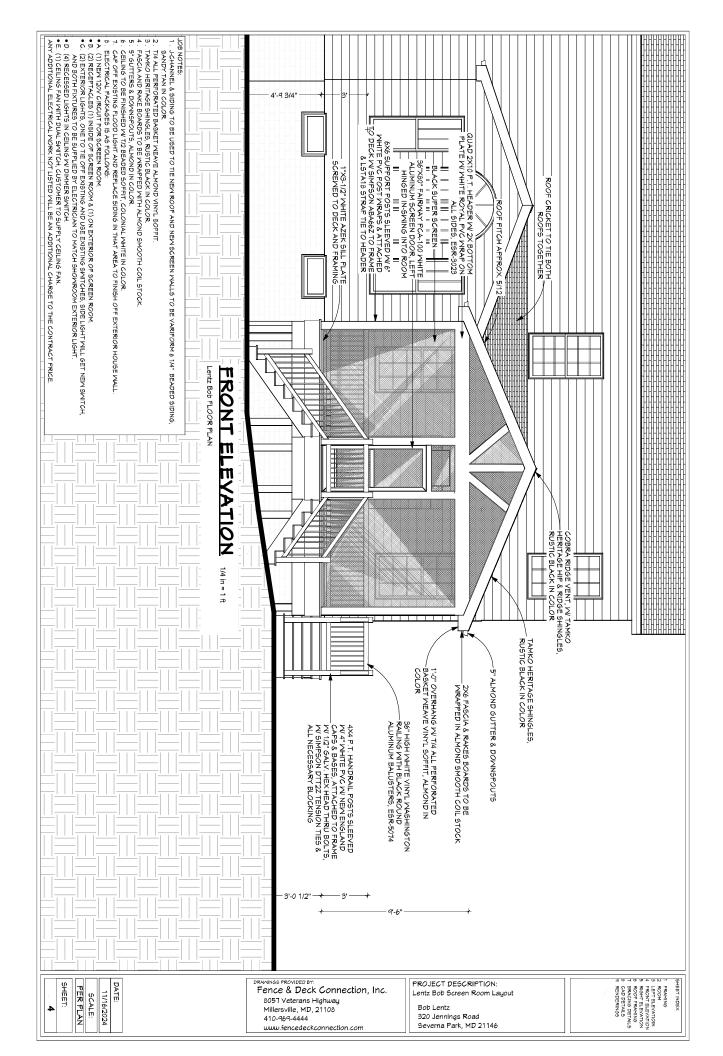
Sincerely,

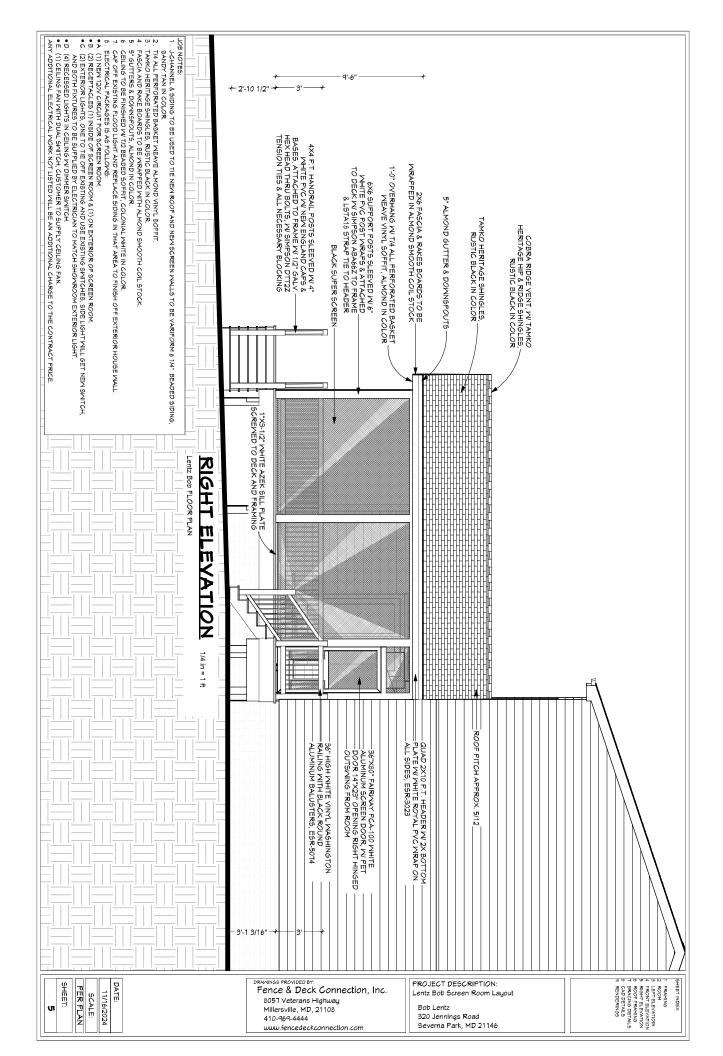
Michael J. Werner, P.E.

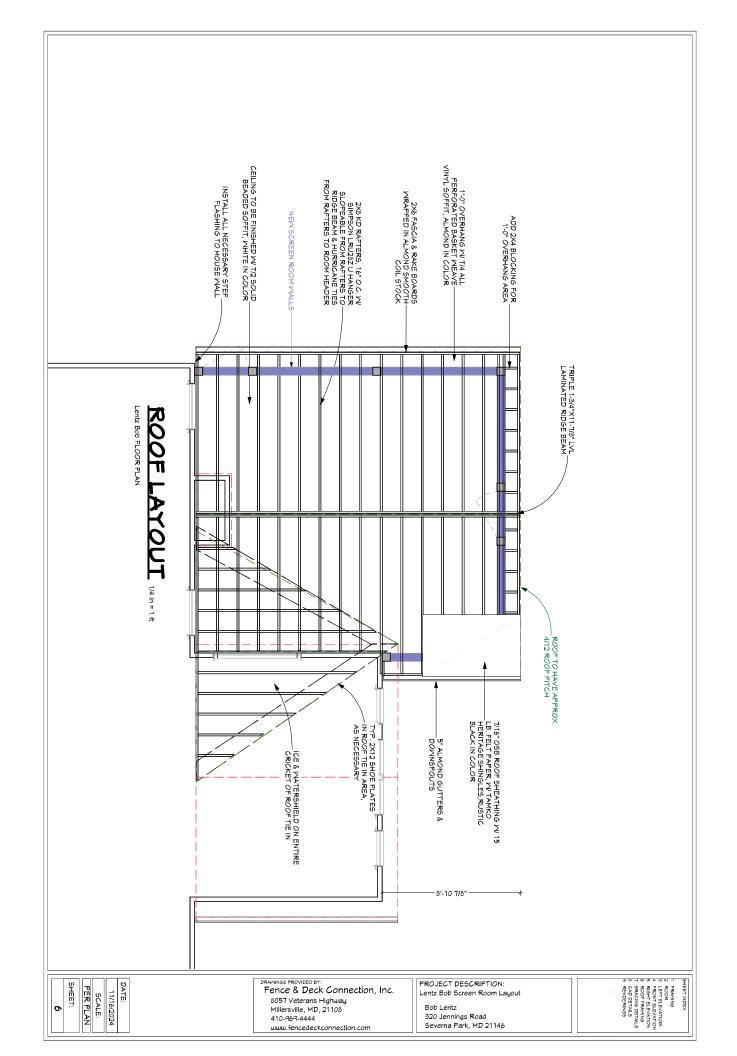




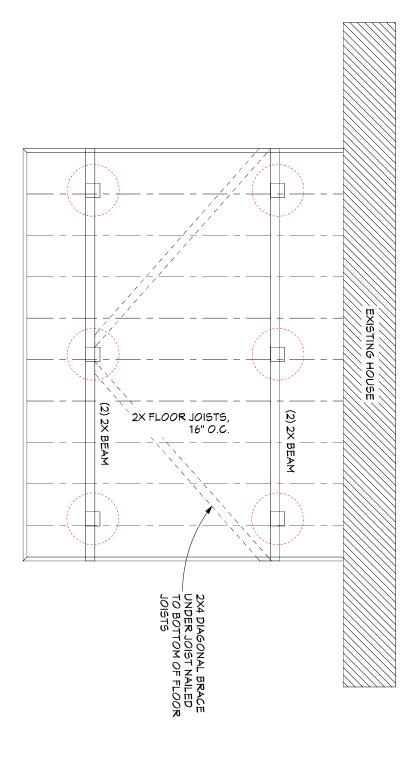








BRACING DETAIL

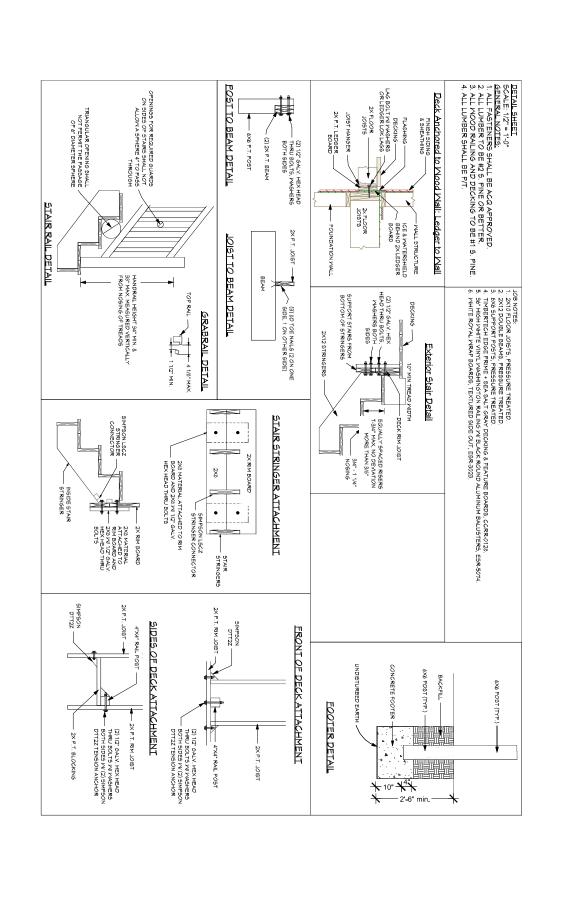


DATE:
11/16/2024
SCALE:
PER PLAN
SHEET:
7

DRAWINGS PROVIDED BY:
Fence & Deck Connection, Inc.
8051 Veterans Highway
Millers/High, MD, 21108
410-46l4-4444
www.fencedeckconnection.com

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Lentz Bob Screen Room Layout

Bob Lentz 320 Jennings Road Severna Park, MD 21146 1 FRAMING
2 ROOM
3 LEFT ELEVATION
4 FRONT ELEVATION
5 RIGHT ELEVATION
6 ROOF FRAMING
1 BRACING DETAILS
6 CAD DETAILS
6 CAD DETAILS
6 CAD DETAILS



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PRAVINGS PROVIDED BY:
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8057 Veterans Highway
Millersylle, MD, 21108
410-948-4444
www.fencedeckconnection.com

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Lentz Bob Screen Room Layout

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SHEET INDEX





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:

February 19, 2025

RE:

Robert L. Lentz

320 Jennings Road Severna Park, MD 21146

NUMBER:

2025- J0026-V

SUBJECT:

Variance/Special Exception/Rezoning

The Health Department has reviewed the above referenced variance to allow a dwelling addition (screened porch with multiple stoops and steps) with less setbacks than required.

The Health Department has reviewed the above-referenced request. The property is served by public water and sewer facilities. 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

2025-0026-V

Help Menu Cancel Task
OPZ Cultural Resources
Assigned to Department
OPZ Cultural Resources
Action by Department
OPZ Cultural Resources
Start Time Due Date 03/07/2025 Assigned to Stacy Poulos Action By Assigned Date 02/14/2025 Status Complete w/ Comments
Status Date Stacy Poulos End Time 03/07/2025 Hours Spent 0.0 Billable Overtime Comments This property is located on a designated Scenic and Historic Road (Category 3), Jennings Rd. and is subject to Article 17-6-504 compliance. The proposed work is unlikely to have an adverse effect, but development applications should include No No appropriate cover notes and labels identifying the scenic and historic road in the plans, as well as provide a 14-point response to the criteria in Article 17-6-504.

In Possession Time (hrs) Time Tracking Start Date Est. Completion Date In Possession Time (hrs)
Display E-mail Address in ACA Display Comment in ACAComment Display in ACA
No All ACA Users All ACA Users Record Creator Licensed Professional Contact Owner
Workflow Calendar **Estimated Hours** Action Updated Task Specific Information **Expiration Date** Review Notes Reviewer Name

Reviewer Phone Number

Reviewer Email

