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

APPLICANT: Wade Winkler & Jennifer Collins **ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**: 1

CASE NUMBER: 2025-0205-V COUNCIL DISTRICT: 7

HEARING DATE: December 16, 2025 **PREPARED BY**: Jennifer Lechner

Planner

REQUEST

The applicants are requesting a variance to allow dwelling additions (decks, screened porch) with less setbacks and buffer than required on property located at 3300 Breckenridge Way in Riva.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SITE

The subject site consists of 2.27 acres (98,881.2 square feet) of land, is located on the northeast side of the cul de sac of Breckenridge Way, and is identified as Parcel 421 in Grid 10 on Tax Map 55 in the Beards Creek subdivision. The waterfront property is located on Long Cove, a Beards Creek tributary, and is primarily zoned R2 – Residential District, with two small areas of OS - Open Space along the shoreline. The lot lies entirely within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, with the western half designated RCA - Resource Conservation Area and the eastern half designated LDA – Limited Development Area, and is mapped as a non-modified buffer. It is currently improved with a 2-story single family dwelling, a pier, and other associated facilities.

PROPOSAL

The applicants are proposing to remove the existing deck and a portion of the existing patio, and to construct a deck (12ft x 19ft) with a landing (5ft x 5ft) and steps to grade (5ft wide), an enclosed porch (13ft x 19ft x 16ft max. height), and a deck (6ft x 19ft) with steps to grade.

REQUESTED VARIANCES

§ 17-8-301 of the Anne Arundel County Subdivision and Development Code provides that development on properties containing buffers shall meet the requirements of COMAR, Title 27; and, § 18-13-104 of the Zoning Ordinance provides that there shall be a minimum 100-foot buffer landward from the mean high-water line of tidal waters, and that the 100-foot buffer shall be expanded beyond 100 feet to include slopes of 15% or greater.

The proposed construction will disturb the expanded buffer, necessitating a variance. The final amount of disturbance will be determined during permit review.

A review of the bulk regulations for development within the R2 District reveals that a setback variance is not required.

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FINDINGS

The subject property is oversized for lots served by public sewer in the R2 District with regard to the minimum lot size of 20,000 square feet and the minimum lot width of 70 feet. A review of the County aerial photography shows an eclectic mix of lots along the creek, with several of the larger lots heavily wooded. The existing deck at the subject property appears to have been constructed after 2005 without prior approvals.

The existing critical area lot coverage of the subject property is 7,787 square feet. The proposed removal and reconfiguration of lot coverage will result in a post-construction lot coverage of 7,605 square feet, which is well below the lot coverage allowed under § 17-8-402 (14,832.18 square feet, or 15% of the parcel). The post-construction coverage by structures was not provided; however, the overall lot coverage is still well below the 60% (59,328.72 square feet) maximum coverage by structures allowed under § 18-4-601.

The subject property had been granted two previous variances to build a dwelling in the expanded buffer: 1994-0489-V (which expired) and 1999-0186-V. The conditions of the 1999 decision included the stipulation that a 25 foot forested buffer (minimum) shall be maintained between the top of steep slopes and all disturbance. The existing and proposed improvements are located within that 25 foot buffer.

Building permit B02438403, to remove the existing deck and to construct a deck with a landing, a screened porch, and a deck with steps to grade, was submitted on July 9, 2025. Variance approval must be obtained prior to the permit being issued.

Agency Comments

The **Critical Area Commission** noted that if the Administrative Hearing Officer (AHO) finds that the applicants have met each and every one of the variance standards, appropriate mitigation should be required.¹

The **Development Division - Critical Area Team** offered no objection based on the reduction in size of the existing improvements and the removal of coverage located within the buffer, provided the AHO finds that this application meets the approval standards.²

The **Recreation and Parks Department** noted that a portion of this site lies within the Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure Network, a proposed preservation area, and that the proposed development is consistent with the spirit of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan.

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

¹ Refer to the Critical Area Commission's comments for their detailed response.

² Refer to the OPZ Critical Area Team's comments for their detailed response.

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Variance Criteria

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. COMAR defines unwarranted hardship as that, without a variance, an applicant shall be denied reasonable and significant use of the entire parcel or lot for which the variance is requested.

In this particular case, nearly all of the subject property lies within the expanded buffer, therefore, replacing the existing deteriorated deck without disturbing this sensitive area would be impossible. As such, the granting of the variance will not confer on the applicant any special privilege that would be denied by COMAR. This variance request is not based on conditions or circumstances that are the result of actions by the applicants, and does not arise from any condition relating to land or building use on any neighboring property.

To offset the new lot coverage of the screened porch, the applicants propose to eliminate a portion of the existing patio, also located within the expanded buffer. With adequate mitigation, the granting of the variance will not adversely affect water quality or impact fish, wildlife, or plant habitat within the County's critical area, and will be in harmony with the general spirit and intent of the County's critical area program. Similarly, it will not reduce forest cover in the limited development area, nor be contrary to acceptable clearing and replanting practices required for development in the critical area.

Because the applicant is proposing to rebuild within the footprint of the existing deck, the granting of the variance will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood or district in which the lot is located, will not substantially impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property, nor will it be detrimental to the public welfare.

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the standards set forth in § 18-16-305 under which a variance may be granted, *conditioned on the proposed removal of lot coverage within the buffer*, this Office recommends:

- approval of a Critical Area variance to § 17-8-301 to disturb the buffer; and,
- *approval* of a zoning variance to § 18-13-104 to allow disturbance to the buffer. If granted, the final amount of disturbance will be determined during permit review.

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.





Letter of Explanation

Wade Winkler and Jennifer Collins

3300 Breckenridge Way Riva, MD 21140 214-394-0540 jcollins-winkler@outlook.com

10/6/2025

Board of Appeals / Planning & Zoning Office Anne Arundel County 44 Calvert Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Variance Request for Parcel 421, Block 10, Tax Map 55 (Breckenridge Way)
Dear Members of the Board,

We respectfully submit this request for a variance to allow for the removal and replacement of the existing deck on our property located on the northeast side of Breckenridge Way, approximately 600 feet southeast of Keystone Court (Parcel 421, Block 10, Tax Map 55). The property is zoned R2-Residential and lies within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, classified as a Limited Development Area.

Property Overview

- Lot Size: 2.273 acres (99,012 sq ft).
- Vegetation: \sim 83,912 sq ft (94.8%) with deciduous trees and shrubs; \sim 10,000 sq ft lawn.
- Existing Impervious Surface: 5,100 sq ft (5.2% of lot).
- Existing Structures: House, driveway (5100 sq ft), paver patio/walkway (1,916 sq ft), and a deteriorating 771 sq ft deck with a dysfunctional and unsafe jacuzzi. Total lot coverage approximately 7787 sq ft (7.9%).

Proposed Project

We propose to remove the existing **771 sq ft deck** and replace it with a **reduced structure totaling 589 sq ft**, positioned approximately **3 feet 1 inch above grade** with a **maximum roof height of 15 feet 11 inches**. The proposed structure includes:

- 342 sq ft of new open decking
- 247 sq ft of an enclosed, roofed porch

Throughout the pre-file process, we engaged in multiple discussions with zoning officials and made several attempts to consult with the Critical Area Division. Based on the guidance received, we can further reduce the new lot coverage and overall site impact, if necessary/recommended. Specifically, we were advised to offset the additional 250 sq ft of roof coverage by reducing the current lot coverage. To that end, we are prepared to incur the additional cost of **reducing the existing paver patio by approximately 280 sq ft**, creating a shorter patio extending from the north side of the house, if necessary/recommended.

With these adjustments, the **impervious surface area will increase modestly** from **5,100 sq ft to 5,350 sq ft** (representing **6.4% of the lot**), while the **overall footprint within the Critical Area Buffer will decrease** from **7,787 sq ft to 7,605 sq ft** (from **7.9% to 7.7%**). The project will **disturb approximately 700 sq ft**, limited to the deck removal area, with **no disturbance to the steep slope**. The existing patio is located at least **220 feet from the mean high-water line**. During construction, **sediment and erosion control** will be maintained through the use of **silt fencing**, and all **drainage will be directed into the existing stormwater management system** to prevent runoff into the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Environmental Enhancements

- Runoff will be better managed with new drainage systems integrated into existing stormwater controls.
- We intend to replace portions of lawn with native and climate appropriate trees, shrubs, and plants to improve water filtration, stabilize slope, and enhance habitat for birds and pollinators.
- The project reduces the outdoor living footprint in the critical area, while better controlling water run-off and long-term slope stability.

Findings of Fact

1. Special Conditions or Circumstances

The property is a waterfront lot within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and almost entirely within the expanded buffer for steep slopes and resource conservation area. These unique conditions limit available building space and create the need for a variance.

2. Practical Difficulty and Unwarranted Hardship

Although the existing deck was never permitted by the prior homeowner—something we were unaware of at the time of purchase—we now find ourselves in a challenging position. The structure has deteriorated beyond repair and must be replaced to ensure safety and usability. Our intent is to rebuild a deck that is consistent with the home's architecture, integrates with the existing hardscape, and respects the unique natural features of the property.

Without a variance, we would be unable to reasonably replace what we view as an essential outdoor living space—one that is characteristic of and consistent with the normal use and enjoyment of waterfront properties in our neighborhood. Our goal is not to expand or intensify use, but to restore a safe, functional, and aesthetically appropriate structure that harmonizes with both the property and its environmental setting.

3. Minimum Necessary to Afford Relief

The proposed replacement reduces the current deck footprint from 771 sq ft to 589 sq ft. Although the impervious area increases slightly (from 6.2% to 6.4% of the lot area), the actual footprint within the buffer will decrease.

4. No Adverse Impact on Water Quality or Habitat

Run-off will be better managed through improved drainage. Native vegetation will replace lawn areas, enhancing water filtration, slope stabilization, and habitat value. Construction avoids disturbance to steep slopes and resource conservation areas.

5. Consistency with Spirit and Intent of the Law

The Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Program seeks to balance reasonable development with protection of water quality and sensitive areas. Our proposal reduces the buffer footprint, improves the current stormwater management, and enhances native habitat, furthering the program's goals.

6. No Detriment to Neighboring Properties or Community

The improvements will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood. The deck replacement will not be visible from adjacent properties and will not impair the use or enjoyment of neighboring parcels. Similar variances and structures exist in the surrounding waterfront community.

Conclusion

We recognize the inherent challenge of requesting a variance to replace a prior structure that was never formally permitted by the county. However, we find ourselves in the difficult position of needing to replace the existing dilapidated structure with a safe, codecompliant living space that allows us to responsibly enjoy the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We are fully aware of the importance of protecting the Chesapeake Bay and its sensitive ecosystems, and we are committed to balancing environmental preservation with the practical use of our property. Our goal is not expansion, but restoration — to create a safe and sustainable space that honors the intent of the Chesapeake Bay protection regulations while allowing for reasonable residential use.

We have carefully designed a replacement that meaningfully improves environmental conditions on site. The proposed plan **reduces the overall buffer footprint**, **enhances stormwater management**, and **incorporates native**, **climate-appropriate plantings** that strengthen shoreline resilience and habitat value. In doing so, this project will provide a measurable environmental benefit compared to the existing conditions.

We deeply value the Chesapeake Bay and are committed to its long-term protection. This proposal reflects our sincere effort to align responsible stewardship with practical use, ensuring that the property does not adversely affect the watershed's health.

For these reasons, we respectfully request approval of this variance. We believe our proposal represents both an environmental improvement and a reasonable accommodation that fulfills the spirit and purpose of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Program. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Wade Winkler and Jennifer Collins

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

PROJECT NOTIFICATION APPLICATION

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Jurisdiction:	Anne Arunde	el County		Date:								
					FOR RESUBMITTAL ONLY							
Tax Map #	Parcel #	Block #	Lot #	Section	Corrections							
55	421	10			Redesign							
					No Change							
					Non-Critical Area							
					Non-Critical Area							
					*C1 O-1 D1							
Tax ID: 100000082610 *Complete Only Page 1												
General Project Information												
Project Name (site name, subdivision name, or other)												
Project location/Address 3300 Breckenridge Way												
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C'. Dive					7. 24440							
City Riva					Zip 21140							
Local case number												
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Applicant:	Last name	Winkler and Collin	S		First name Wade and Jennifer							
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D.::14: D	:4			Variance								
Building Peri												
Buffer Manag	_		Rezoning									
Conditional Use Site Plan												
Consistency Report Special Exception												
Disturbance > 5,000 sq ft Subdivision Subdivision												
Grading Permit Other												
Grading 1 cm				o tiller	Ш							
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Local Juriso	nction Contac	t Information:										
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Last name	AACo Zonin	g Administration	n Section	_ First name								
Phone #	410-222-743	7	Resno	onse from Com	mission Required By TBD							
			P		<u>-1</u>							
For #				Haaring data	TRD							
Fax #				_ Hearing date								

SPECIFIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Describe Proposed use We are requesting to replace			vina sr	ace that is cu	rrently an open deck with an overall	smaller structur	 re comprised of	
					the existing paver patio to offset the		-	
ran open deck and enclosed p	Yes	so propos	se to re	move part or	the existing paver patio to offset the	Yes	sed pallo	
Intra-Family Transfer					Growth Allocation			
Grandfathered Lot	H				Buffer Exemption Area			
Grandfathered Lot	Ш				Bullet Exemption 11			
Project Type (check a	ll that app	oly)						
Commercial					Recreational			
Consistency Report	\Box				Redevelopment			
Industrial					Residential	$\overline{\mathbf{x}}$		
Institutional	Shore Erosion Control							
Mixed Use	Water-Dependent Facility							
Other	water-Dependent racinty							
Other	Ш —				-			
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IDA Area 0		0		1	-			
LDA Area			49528 49484		W 07			
RCA Area 1.136 Total Area 2.273		99012			# of Lots Created			
Total Area	99012							
		Acr	es	Sq Ft		Acres	Sq Ft	
Existing Forest/Woodland	d/Trees	1.926		83912	Existing Lot Coverage	0.179	7787	
Created Forest/Woodland	l/Trees				New Lot Coverage	0.014	589	
Removed Forest/Woodland	nd/Trees				Removed Lot Coverage	0.024	1051	
					Total Lot Coverage	0.168	7325	
		•				•	-	
VARIANCE INFORM	MATION	(Check	all th	at apply)				
		Acr	es	Sq Ft		Acres	Sq Ft	
Buffer Disturbance		0.016		700	Buffer Forest Clearing	0		
Non-Buffer Disturbance					Mitigation			
Variance Type					Structure			
Buffer	<u> </u>			A	Acc. Structure Addition			
Forest Clearing		Barn						
HPA Impact		Deck						
Lot Coverage		Dwelling						
Expanded Buffer		Dwelling Addition						
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Critical Area Report Narrative

The residential property consists of **2.273 acres** (**99,012 sq ft**) located on the northeast side of Breckenridge Way, approximately **600 feet southeast of Keystone Court**. The site is identified as **Parcel 421 in Block 10 on Tax Map 55** and is zoned **R2–Residential**, consistent with the comprehensive rezoning of the Second Assessment District adopted on **February 13, 1989**.

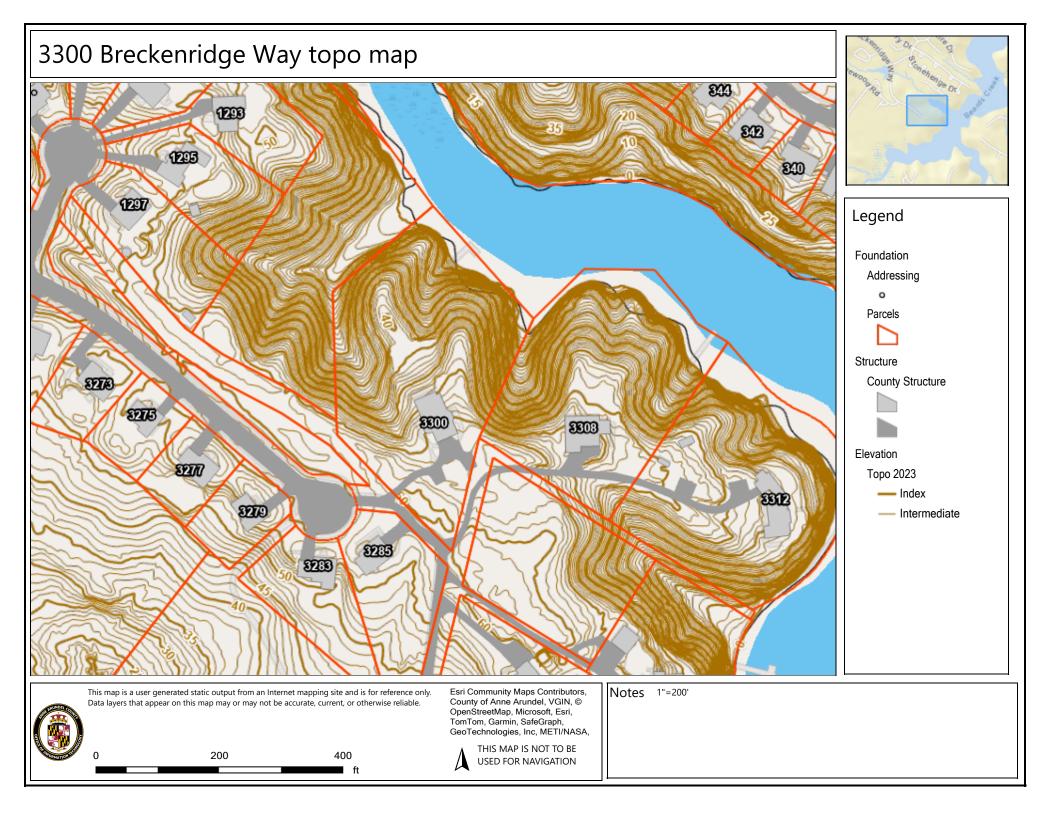
This waterfront lot is located within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and is classified as a Limited Development Area (LDA). The parcel is irregularly shaped, predominantly wooded, and lies largely within the expanded buffer associated with steep slopes and resource conservation area features. The property's vegetative cover includes mature deciduous trees and low-lying shrubs, encompassing approximately 83,912 sq ft (84.7%), with an additional 10,000 sq ft of maintained lawn (Kentucky 31 tall fescue) in the immediate vicinity of the dwelling. In total, 94.8% of the property is vegetated.

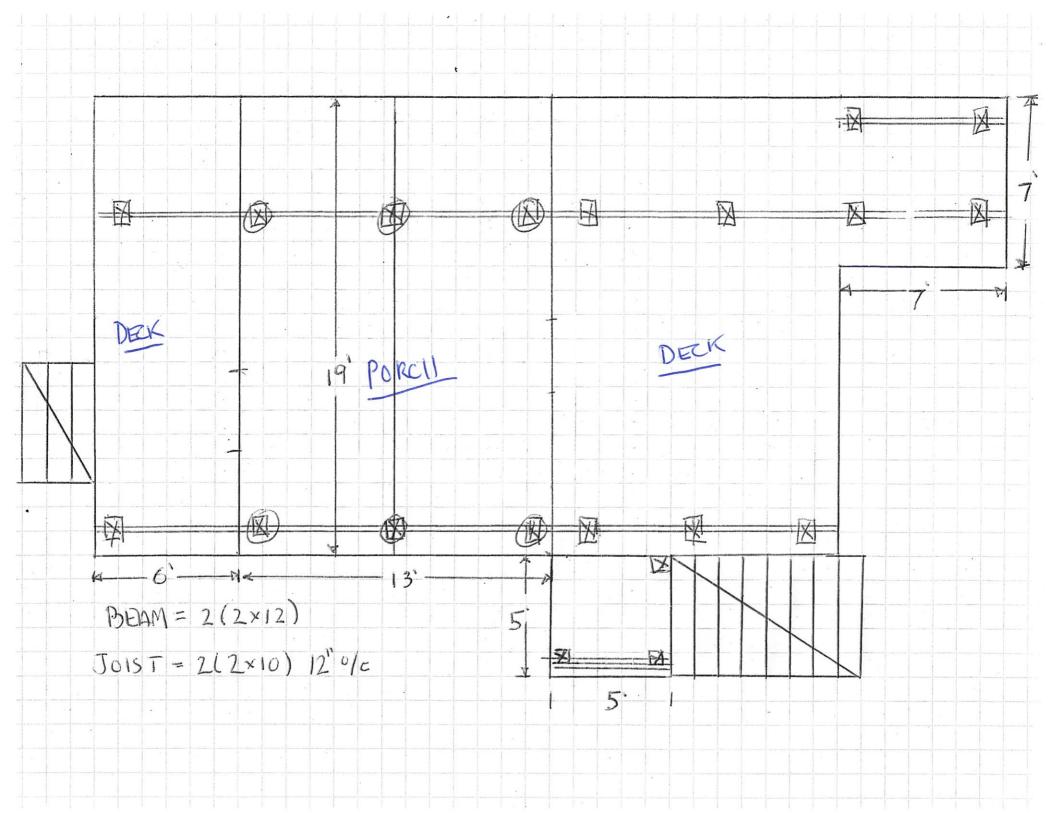
Existing impervious surfaces, including the residence and driveway, total approximately **5,100** sq ft (**5.2%** of the lot). Additional hardscape elements consist of a **1,916** sq ft paver patio and walkway, and a **771** sq ft deck, for a combined lot coverage of **7,787** sq ft (**7.9%**). The existing deck is approximately **221** feet from the mean high-water line, is nearing 20 years in age, and has significantly deteriorated, including a nonfunctional hot tub.

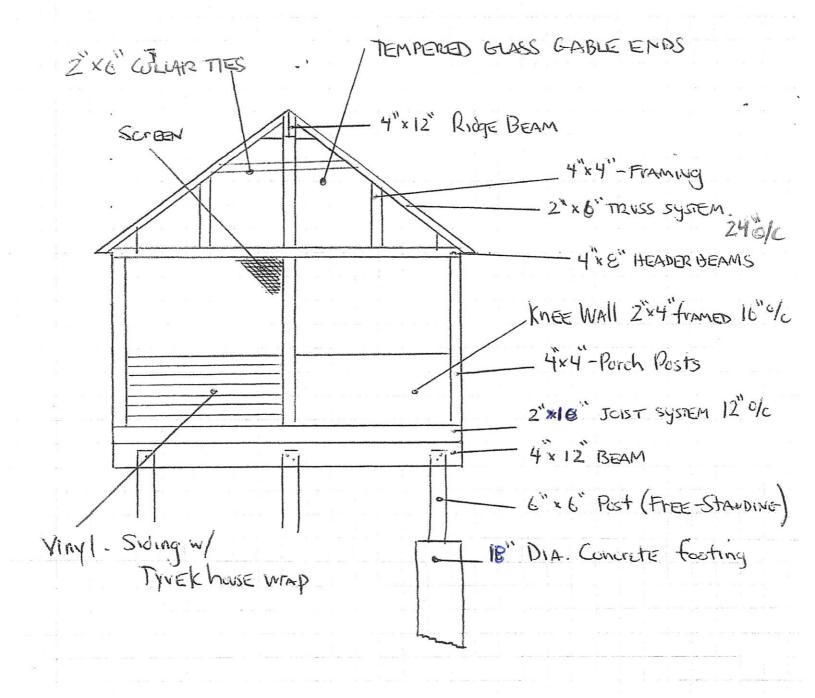
The applicant proposes to **remove the existing 771 sq ft deck** and replace it with a **reduced structure totaling 589 sq ft**, consisting of **342 sq ft of new decking** and a **247 sq ft enclosed**, **roofed porch**. The new structure will be approximately **3 feet 1 inch above grade** with a **maximum roof height of 15 feet 11 inches**.

While the impervious surface area will modestly increase from 5,100 sq ft to 5,350 sq ft (6.4% of the lot), the overall lot coverage within the Critical Area Buffer will decrease from 7,787 sq ft to 7,605 sq ft (7.9% to 7.7%). Approximately 700 sq ft of disturbance will occur during deck removal, with no disturbance to the steep slope area, which lies roughly 20–25 feet from the proposed construction.

To ensure environmental protection and compliance with Critical Area regulations, **sediment** and erosion control will be maintained through the installation of **silt fencing**, and **drainage** will be tied into the existing stormwater management system. These improvements are expected to enhance site drainage and reduce surface runoff, providing a net environmental benefit to the property and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.









Jamileh Soueidan -DNR- <jamileh.soueidan@maryland.gov>

CAC Comments: 2025-0205-V; Collins (AA 0280-25)

1 message

Jamileh Soueidan -DNR- <jamileh.soueidan@maryland.gov> To: Sadé Medina <pzmedi22@aacounty.org>

Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 3:28 PM

Good afternoon,

Our office has reviewed the above-referenced variance and provide the following comments:

• The applicant is requesting a variance for disturbance to the Critical Area Buffer, which is expanded for steep slopes for the construction of a deck and covered porch. The property was subject to a previous variance request for the construction of the dwelling and associated features, which was granted; the variance request did not include the current patio and deck, which were constructed by the previous owner and unpermitted. The applicant is proposing the construction of a 342 square-foot deck and 247 square-foot covered porch within the existing footprint of the unpermitted improvements. The proposed work will result in ~700 square feet of disturbance to the expanded Buffer and proposed lot coverage on site will be within the allowable limit. The Administrative Hearing Office (AHO) must find that each and every one of the Critical Area Variance Standards have been met, including that this proposal meets unwarranted hardship and that it would not adversely affect water quality and wildlife or plant habitat. If the AHO finds that each and every one of the standards have been addressed, then appropriate mitigation is required.

These comments have been entered into the County's Online Portal.

Sincerely, Jamileh Soueidan

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Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays dnr.maryland.gov/criticalarea

Jamileh Soueidan (she/her) Natural Resources Planner 1804 West Street, Suite 100 Annapolis, MD 21401

Office: 410-260-3462

Cell: 667-500-4994 (preferred) jamileh.soueidan@maryland.gov

2025-0205-V - for B02438403

Cancel Menu Help Task **Due Date Assigned Date OPZ Critical Area Team** 11/07/2025 10/17/2025 **Assigned to Department** Assigned to **Status** OPZ Critical Area Kelly Krinetz Complete w/ Comments **Action by Department** Status Date Action By **OPZ Critical Area** Kelly Krinetz 11/06/2025 **End Time Start Time Hours Spent** 0.0 Billable Overtime Comments Provided the AHO finds that this application meets the approval standards, I offer no objection based on the reduction in No No size of the existing improvements and the removal of coverage located within the buffer. Mitigation will be required and should be located between the top of slope and the proposed redevelopment. **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 Record Creator Licensed Professional Contact Owner **Workflow Calendar Estimated Hours** Action 0.0 Updated **Task Specific Information Expiration Date Review Notes Reviewer Name Reviewer Phone Number Reviewer Email**



STEUART PITTMAN, COUNTY EXECUTIVE JESSICA LEYS, DIRECTOR RECREATION AND PARKS 1 HARRY S. TRUMAN PKWY ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401 AACOUNTY.ORG/RECPARKS



MEMORANDUM

TO: Sadé Medina, Zoning Division

Office of Planning and Zoning

FROM: Pat Slayton

Capital Projects Division

SUBJECT: Variance Case 2025-0205-V

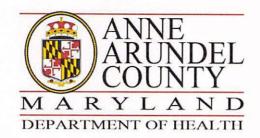
DATE: October 17, 2025

The Department of Recreation and Parks has reviewed the above plans to determine if there may be impacts to the Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure Network, parks, and trails. Please note our recommendations according to those findings below.

A portion of this site lies within the Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure Network, a
proposed preservation area considered in the Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure
Master Plan. The proposed development is consistent with the spirit of the Green
Infrastructure Master Plan.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has no further comments.

cc: File



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: October 21, 2025

RE: Wade C. Winkler

3300 Breckenridge Way

Riva, MD 21140

NUMBER: 2025-0205-V

SUBJECT: Variance/Special Exception/Rezoning

The Health Department has reviewed the above referenced variance to allow dwelling additions (deck and screened porch) with less setbacks and buffer 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.

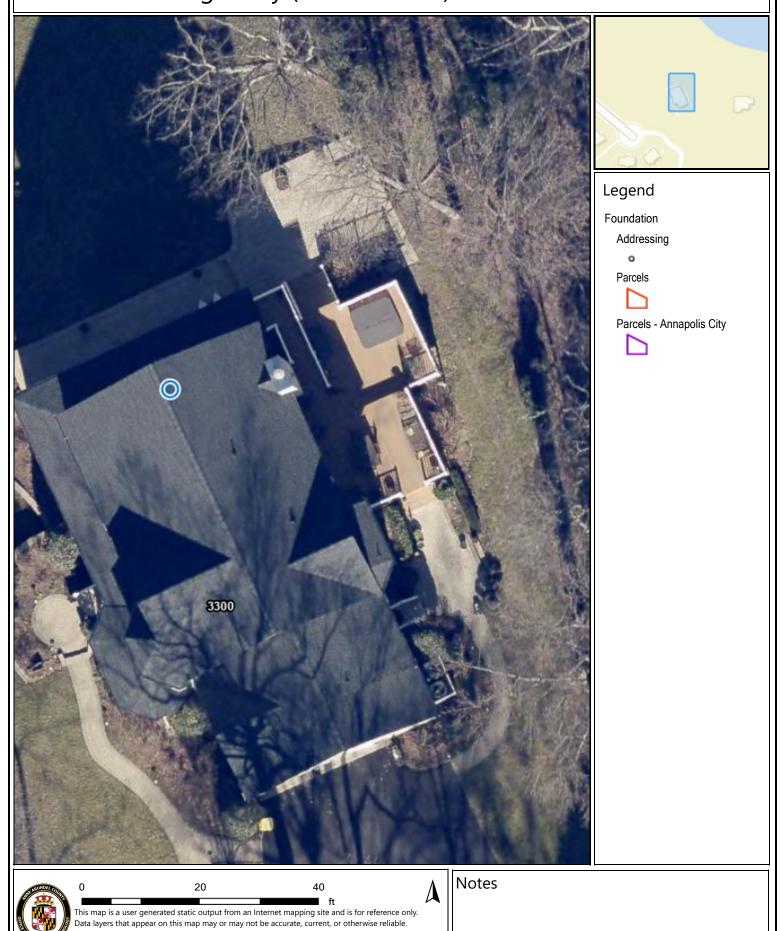
If you have further questions or comments, please contact Brian Chew at 410-222-7413.

cc: Sterling Seay

3300 Breckenridge Way (2025-0205-V)

DO NOT USE FOR NAVIGATION.

Nearmap | none



3300 Breckenridge Way (2025-0205-V) Legend Foundation Addressing 0 Parcels Parcels - Annapolis City



50 100

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. DO NOT USE FOR NAVIGATION.

Nearmap | none

Notes