Zoning Board of Adjustments City of Portsmouth 1 Junkins Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801

RE: 25-27 Morning Street Portsmouth MLB 0163--0019--0000- Book Page 5346/2990

## Proposed Improvement:

We seek to build a 21 x 6 foot wooden deck on the Southeastern side of the condominium. This is a two family/two unit condominium. This deck will allow our family a private area on our side of the building. The common area of the two unit house is split in a way that the small yard has a walkway through our side for both units to the parking. The deck will be on the first floor and will not impede parking. The Association for the Condominiums agrees to all parts of the planned improvement and a letter certifying that is attached. The property is already nonconforming as to, building coverage and side yard setbacks. Many of the houses in this small neighborhood are as well. The deck is tastefully designed and will conform to the general characteristics of the neighborhood - all of the yards face each other and have the feel of a village. We have spoken to many neighbors who support for our desire to more enjoy the outside and have more light and sun in our house that this project will give. We have lived and worked in Portsmouth throughout decades since the 1970's and we hope to spend our retirement years in this beautiful home.

## Variance Relief

- 1. Setback: .to allow a two foot setback for the side of the deck where a 10 foot setback is required. (Current setback of house is 1 foot)
- 2. Building Coverage: to allow a 31.6% where a 25% is required. (Current building coverage is 28.5%)

10.233.21 The variance will not be contrary to the public interest; and 10.233.22 The spirit of the Ordinance will be observed:

There are many houses in this neighborhood that do not comply with the setback or coverage requirement. The house was built more than a hundred years ago as were many around it. This whole neighborhood is quirky and smaller houses were squeezed into nonconforming lots. The proposed improvement will remain consistent with the character of the neighborhood and will not or threaten the health, safety and welfare of the public. This improvement will observe the spirit of the Ordinance and not be contrary to public interest. The essentially residential characteristics of the neighborhood would not be altered by this improvement.

10.233.23 Substantial justice will be done;

The requested setback and building coverage relief is reasonable. The house was built before many of the surrounding houses and lots were all nonconforming regarding setbacks and

building coverage. The proposed deck is within the existing non-conforming footprint and will not increase the non-conforming setbacks at all. A deck will allow privacy from the other condominium and it is reasonable for the Board to conclude that substantial justice will be done by granting this variance.

10.233.24 The values of surrounding properties will not be diminished;

Our home was refurbished recently and contributes to the property values in the area. The windows, siding and roof have all been updated. The proposed deck will increase the value of the house and may help maintain, or raise the values of the surrounding properties. It is reasonable for the Board to conclude that the values of the surrounding properties will not be diminished.

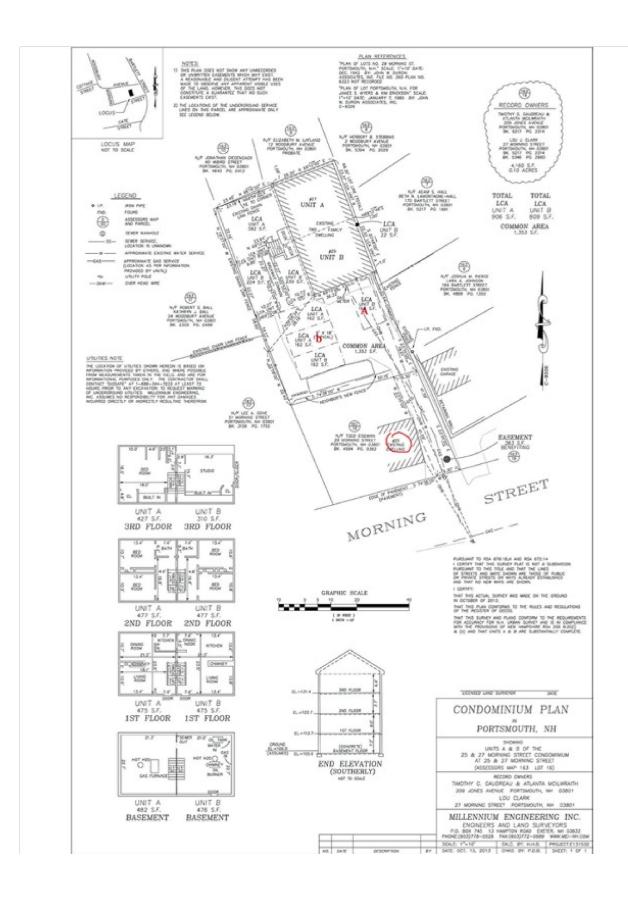
10.233.25 Literal enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance would result in an unnecessary hardship.

This hundred year old house and lot are unique. The building is up against the property lines on two sides. The doors lead from southern side and the only way to reach the parking is through the small yard. We are lucky to have nice neighbors and we all make the quaint setup work. This unique situation does not allow our family a private outdoors space. There is no other way to achieve that because of the walkway and the parking. Literal enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance will result in an unnecessary hardship.

In conclusion, please consider approving the variances we are seeking. We hope to enjoy this house in this quirky neighborhood in Portsmouth for many years to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Carla and Edward Rice.





Morning Street Condominium Association 25-27 Morning Street Portsmouth, NH 03801 11/18/2021 Zoning Board City of Portsmouth 1 Junkins Avenue Portsmouth NH 037801 Our association agrees with the plan of 25 Morning Street to build a 21 x 6 deck on the condominium. The Rices have provided all building plans and these are in accordance with our Association rules and regulations. Thank you. OWNERS: Lou Clark Signature: Carla and Edward Rice Signature: Carla

