

## BY: <u>VIEWPOINT & HAND DELIVERY</u>

May 1, 2024

City of Portsmouth Attn: Stefanie Casella, Planner Zoning Board of Adjustment 1 Junkins Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801

## RE: Variance Application of Kerrin J. Parker, Trustee of the Kerrin J. Parker Revocable Trust of 2012 86 Haven Road, Tax Map 206, Lot 27

Dear Stefanie,

Please find a copy of the following submission materials in connection with the variance application being filed on Kerrin Parker's behalf for property located at 86 Haven Road:

- 1) Landowner Letter of Authorization;
- 2) Narrative to Variance Application;
- 3) Existing and Proposed Conditions Site Plan;
- 4) Architectural Plans;
- 5) GIS Map of Property; and
- 6) Photographs of Property.

A copy of the above application materials is being delivered to the Planning Department. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed application materials, do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

R.C. Junt.

Derek R. Durbin, Esq.

## LANDOWNER LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

**Kerrin J. Parker, Trustee of the Kerrin J. Parker Revocable Trust**, record owner of the property located at 86 Haven Road, Tax Map 206, Lot 27, Portsmouth, NH (the "Property"), hereby authorizes **Durbin Law Offices, PLLC** to file any zoning, planning or other municipal permit applications with the City of Portsmouth for said Property and to appear before its land use boards. This Letter of Authorization shall be valid until expressly revoked in writing.

## Kerrin J. Parker Revocable Trust

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January 10, 2024

Kerrin J. Parker, Trustee

#### **CITY OF PORTSMOUTH**

## NARRATIVE TO VARIANCE APPLICATION

## Kerrin J. Parker Revocable Trust of 2012 Kerrin J. Parker, Trustee ("Applicant")

86 Haven Road Tax Map 206, Lot 27

#### Introduction

#### **Existing Conditions**

The Property is a 7,889 square foot improved parcel of land situated at the very end of Haven Road owned by Kerrin J. Parker, as Trustee of the Kerrin J. Parker Revocable Trust of 2012 (the "Property"). The Property contains a relatively small single-family residence that Kerrin resides in with her two children. It is zoned Single-Family Residence B. The Property is abutted by single-family homes to the north and east. To the south and west, it is abutted by Little Harbor School and related City land.

The single-family home on the Property was originally built in 1941. There is a also a small shed and detached garage on the Property. The existing home was originally one-story in height and consisted of only the front of the house facing Haven Road. In 1983, the Zoning Board of Adjustment ("Board") granted the variances necessary to construct a small two-story addition to the rear. The resulting addition is not a full two-stories in height. It is closer to 1.5 stories in height. The front of the home remains one-story in height and then transitions to approximately 1.5 stories in height in the rear. In 2005, relief was granted to allow another small, one-story living room addition to the rear of the home.

#### **Proposed Conditions**

#### Second Floor Expansion

The Applicant would like to create a full second floor on the home to allow for safer, more adequate headroom and to accommodate an additional bedroom and bathroom. Presently, the Applicant shares a bathroom with her two daughters on the second floor of the home.

#### Porch Addition

In addition to creating a full second floor over the existing footprint of the home, the Applicant would like to construct a farmer style porch onto the front of the home to improve its architectural appeal and functionality. The new porch would connect the existing front entryway to the north (right) to the existing side deck and entryway to the south (left).

## **Zoning Relief Summary**

The Applicant seeks the following variances from the Board:

#### **Article 10.521**

- a) Building Coverage to allow 26% (+/-) building coverage where 23% (+/-) exists and 20% is allowed;
- b) Front Yard Setback allow for a 7.7'(+/-) front yard setback where 7.7' exists and 30' is required.<sup>1</sup>

Section 10.321: To allow a nonconforming building or structure to be extended, reconstructed or enlarged without conforming to the requirements of the Ordinance.

#### Variance Criteria

Granting the variances will not be contrary to the spirit and intent of the Zoning Ordinance or the public interest.

In the case of <u>Chester Rod & Gun Club, Inc. v. Town of Chester</u>, the Court noted that since the provisions of all ordinances represent a declaration of public interest, any variance will, in some measure, be contrary to the ordinance, but to be contrary to the public interest or injurious to public rights of others, "the variance must 'unduly, and in a marked degree' conflict with the ordinance such that it violates the ordinance's 'basic zoning objectives." "<u>Id</u>. The Court observed that "[t]here are two methods of ascertaining whether granting a variance would violate an ordinance's basic zoning objectives: (1) examining whether granting the variance would alter the essential character of the neighborhood or, in the alternative; and (2) examining whether granting the variance would threaten the public health, safety, or welfare." <u>Id</u>.

#### Second Floor Expansion

The vertical expansion of the second floor of the home will be located outside of the applicable building setbacks and contained entirely over the footprint of the existing home. The area of the existing home above which the expansion is proposed by itself does not violate the building coverage limitation in the Ordinance as the footprint is 1,044 square feet. The second-floor expansion has been included in the request for variance relief under Section 10.321 out of an abundance of caution due to the Property itself being non-conforming with respect to building coverage; however, this limitation does have a direct correlation to the proposed second-floor expansion and should not apply under the circumstances.

The public interest is observed by allowing for a code-compliant, aesthetically appealing expansion of the second floor of the home. It is also consistent with the spirit of the Ordinance, which in this case relates to total building coverage and is to protect against the overcrowding of land. Aside from the new farmer's porch, which is discussed below, there will be no expansion to the footprint of any existing structures on the Property.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on the average alignment of primary structures within 200' on the same side of Haven Drive, the required front yard setback is approximately 10' pursuant to Section 10.516.10 of the Ordinance. **Exhibit A.** 

#### **Farmer's Porch**

The proposed farmer's porch does constitute an expansion to the existing footprint of the building, thus increasing the building coverage by just under 4%. In addition, at least a portion of it will encroach into the front setback. The porch will follow and wrap around the front façade of the home. It will have a setback of 7.7' at its closest point to the front boundary along the northern elevation of the Property to 9.8' at its farthest point to the front boundary along the southern elevation of the Property. The existing home, including front entryway, has a setback of 7.7' to 15.6' by way of comparison.

The appearance of the home will be aesthetically improved with the modifications made to the roofline and façade the home. Having a wrap-around farmers-style porch that connects the entryway to the south with the entryway to the north will also improve the functionality of the home and allow for more social interaction with the neighborhood while not altering the essential character of the neighborhood or having any negative impact upon the public interest. The proposed building coverage will be consistent with about half of the other properties along Haven Road.

The purpose of minimum setback standards is to ensure that there is adequate light, air and space between abutting properties and the structures thereon. Front setback restrictions are also often utilized to promote a uniform streetscape. In this instance, based on the City GIS, the average alignment of principal buildings on the same side of the street (within 200') is 10'. The proposed setback is 7.7' - 9.8', which is consistent with surrounding structures. The spirit of the Ordinance will be observed, as the proposed farmer's porch will not have any impact upon the light, air and space of any abutting property and will maintain a consistent streetscape on Haven Road.

## Substantial Justice will be done in granting the variances.

To determine whether substantial justice is done, the Board must balance the equities between the rights of a private landowner and the public interest in deciding whether to grant or deny a variance request. The "only guiding rule is that any loss to the individual that is not outweighed by a gain to the general public is an injustice." New Hampshire Office of State Planning, The Board of Adjustment in New Hampshire, A Handbook for Local Officials (1997); *Malachy Glen Assocs., Inc. v. Town of Chichester*, 155 N.H. 102 (2007).

There is no conceivable gain to the public by denying the variance relief as it relates to the expansion of the second floor or the proposed farmer's porch. It would constitute a loss to the Applicant to deny the request for the expansion of the second floor, as it will allow for a second bathroom and sufficient bedroom space for the Applicant and her two daughters. The farmer's porch adds aesthetic and functional value without negatively impacting any abutting properties. For the foregoing reasons, it would constitute an injustice to deny the application in whole or in part.

#### Surrounding property values will not be diminished by granting the variance.

It would be illogical to conclude that surrounding property values would be negatively affected in any way by the proposed improvements to the Property. The proposed improvements will be in keeping with the character of the neighborhood and improve the Property aesthetically. The second-floor expansion and proposed farmer's porch will only add value to the Property and hence, surrounding properties.

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

The Property has special conditions that distinguish it from surrounding properties. It is uniquely situated at the end of Haven Road, which is abutted by City land that consists of open green space (field(s)) to the south and west. The Property does not see a lot of foot or vehicular traffic. The Property has 53% of the lot area required under SRB Zoning. Based on the area of the lot (7,889 sf.) and the 20% building coverage limitation, only 1,578 sf. of the Property can be occupied by structure. In addition, the Property is irregularly shaped. It has a panhandle or "logger's boot" shape. It is 86' in width in the front and narrows to 10' in width at the rear lot line. Once the applicable building setbacks (10'/30') are applied to the Property, there is very little area available for development. The original home on the Property was constructed in 1941, prior to current zoning, and did not account for the needs of a family in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Property is uniquely situated and burdened in comparison with surrounding properties, such that there is no fair and substantial relationship between the general purposes of the Ordinance provisions and their application to the Property.

As argued above, it is undersigned counsel's opinion that the *expansion of the second floor* should be exempt from needing variance relief under Section 10.321 and 10.521 of the Ordinance since it only involves a vertical expansion that does not further extend any existing non-conformities of the Property.

The proposed use is reasonable. The existing single-family use of the Property will continue and is encouraged and permitted by right in the SRB zoning district. The modifications to the Property will allow for a more modern, comfortable living environment that complies with the current building code and allows for safer, more adequate ceiling height and headroom on the second floor of the home.

## Conclusion

The Applicant has demonstrated that her application meets the five (5) criteria for granting each of the variances requested. She thanks the Board for its time and consideration of her application and respectfully requests your approval.

**Respectfully Submitted** 

Dated: May 1, 2024

Kerrin J. Parker, Trustee of the Kerrin J. Parker Revocable Trust of 2012

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By: Derek R. Durbin, Esq. DURBIN LAW OFFICES PLLC 144 Washington Street Portsmouth, NH 03801 (603)-287-4764



## **Map Theme Legends**

## Wetlands



City of Portsmouth





1\_Parker\001-86 Haven Rd., Portsmouth-PAY\2024 Survey\Plans & Specs)Site\5010438 2024

	NORTH NAD83(2011)	AMBIT ENGINEERING, INC.		
	NO NAD83	WWW.HALEYWARD.COM	200 Griffin Road, Unit 3 Portsmouth, NH 03801 603.436.2315	
		NOTES: 1) PARCEL IS SHOWN ON THE CITY OF ASSESSOR'S MAP 206 AS LOT 27.	- PORTSMOUTH	
	GRID	2) OWNERS OF RECORD: KERRIN J. PARKER REVOCABLE TRUST OF 201 KERRIN J. PARKER TRUSTEE 86 HAVEN ROAD PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801 5383/2885 RCRD #0985 LOT 7 AND A PORTION OF LOT 6		
		3) PARCEL NOT IN A SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD ZONE AS SHOWN ON FIRM PANEL 33015C0259F. JANUARY 29, 2021.		
206 26 N/F		4) EXISTING LOT AREA: 7,889 S.F. 0.18 ACRES		
IN W. ANDERSON CY B. ANDERSON BRACKETT ROAD SMOUTH, NH 0380 3945/2803	1	5) PARCEL IS LOCATED IN THE SINGLE RESIDENCE B DISTRICT (SRB).		
		<ol> <li>DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS: MIN. LOT AREA: FRONTAGE: SETBACKS:</li> </ol>	15,000 SF 100 FEET	
R		FRONT SIDE REAR	30 FEET 10 FEET 30 FEET	
		MAXIMUM STRUCTURE HEIGHT: MAXIMUM BUILDING COVERAGE: MINIMUM OPEN SPACE:		
		7) THE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN IS TO SHOW THE PROPOSED FARMERS PORCH ON ASSESSOR'S MAP 206 LOT 27 IN THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH.		
		<ul><li>8) ABUTTER INFORMATION TAKEN FROM THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH GIS WEBSITE.</li></ul>		
		PORISMOUTH GIS WEBSITE.		
		1 PROPOSED FARMERS PORCH	4/23/2024	
		0 ISSUED FOR COMMENT NO. DESCRIPTION	4/19/24 DATE	
		REVISIONS		
		PROPOSED		
		CONDITIONS PLAN		
			FLAN	
		FOR		
		KERRIN J. PARKER		
		86 HAVEN ROA CITY OF PORTSM		
		COUNTY OF ROCKI		
		STATE OF NEW HAM	IPSHIRE	
		SCALE: 1"=10'	DATE: APRIL 2024	
		FB 440 & PG 5	5010438	



# RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION



DRAWN BY: MARTHA MACINNIS 58 REGENT AVE. BRADFORD, MA. 01835 (978)374-8719 PROPOSED ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS 86 HAVEN ROAD PORTSMOUTH, NH





DRAWN BY: MARTHA MACINNIS 58 REGENT AVE. BRADFORD, MA. 01835 (978)374-8719

NOTE

Model

2842

2832

30410

No

А

В

С

MODEL NUMBERS SHOWN FOR WINDOWS ARE FOR THOSE AS MANUFACTURED BY ANDERSEN

WINDOW SCHEDULE

TYPE

DH

DH

DH

RO

2'-101/8" x 4'-47/8" 3'-2 1/8" x 5'-0 7/8"

2'-10 1/8" x 3'-4 7/8"

PROPOSED ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS 86 HAVEN ROAD PORTSMOUTH, NH

- NOTES: I. REMOVE ALL PARTITIONS INDICATED BY DOTTED LINE.
- 2. ALL NEW WORK ABUTTING EXISTING SHALL MATCH IN TEXTURE AND APPEARANCE.
- PATCH FLOORS, WALLS & CEILINGS WHERE PARTITIONS HAVE BEEN REMOVED SO THAT SURFACES ARE FLUSH AND CONTINUOUS.
- 4. PROVIDE ALL SHORING AND TEMPORARY BRACING TO EXISTING STRUCTURE DURING DEMO OPERATIONS TO ASSURE THAT IT IS SUBSTANTIALLY SUPPORTED.
- 5. PROVIDE TEMPORARY DUSTPROOF PARTITIONS IN AREAS OF WORK.
- 6. CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL DIMENSIONS AND FIELD CONDITIONS.



|/4"=|'-0









 $\frac{\text{FOUNDATION PLAN}}{1/4"=1'-0}$ 

DRAWN BY: MARTHA MACINNIS 58 REGENT AVE. BRADFORD, MA. 01835 (978)374-8719 PROPOSED ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS 86 HAVEN ROAD PORTSMOUTH, NH



OCTOBER 2, 2023





DRAWN BY: MARTHA MACINNIS 58 REGENT AVE. BRADFORD, MA. 01835 (978)374-8719 PROPOSED ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS 86 HAVEN ROAD PORTSMOUTH, NH



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## PROPOSED ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS 86 HAVEN ROAD PORTSMOUTH, NH



ROOF BELOW













