Minutes of the Forest County Board of Adjustment

Tuesday, July 6, 2018

10:30 a.m. Laona Town Hall

1. The meeting was call to order by Chairman Harry Thurin at 10:30 a.m.
2. The roll was called and all board members were present. Those included Harry Thurin, Jeanie Pitts, and Lance Laabs. Jeannie Fannin, Forest County Zoning Administrator was present to act as clerk. Helen Laird, Vanessa Laird, Christine Albertsson and Mike Trudeau were also present.
3. Motion by Jeanie Pitts to approve the agenda, second by Lance Laabs, all in favor, motion approved.
4. Motion to approve the minutes from Friday June 29, 2018 by Jeanie Pitts, second by Harry Thurin, all in favor, motion approved.
5. Jean Fannin confirmed compliance with the open meetings and public hearing requirements.
6. No time limit was set for anyone wanting to speak.
7. Motion by Lance Laabs, to open the public hearing, second by Jeanie Pitts, all in favor, motion approved.
8. Jean Fannin read the application.
9. Vanessa Laird spoke regarding her mother’s continued use of the property. Ms. Helen Laird explained that the property has been in the family for many years and that the family has always been good stewards of the lake. She wants to continue to use her property safely and this project will help her to do that. An attachment (see attached) to the application documents the request.
10. Jean Fannin reported that the County Zoning Ordinance allows 200 sq. ft. of lateral expansion if the existing structure is at least 35 ft. from the OHWM. The existing structure on this property is only 24 ft.
11. There was no related correspondence
12. There were no ex-parte communications.
13. There were no comments from any witness
14. No further comments from staff
15. Lance Laabs stated he has a concern about rain blowing in on the surface and still dealing with a safety issue. He also stated that there is no ramp for her to get up and down stairs and for safety reasons she would need this to get in and out of the cabin. Vanessa did state that the bathroom facilities would have grab bars for her. She said that there is always someone with her mother to help her and that she does fine with a banister or rail. Lance stated that if there were ever a fire and no one could get to her she would need a ramp. She could not rely on someone being able to get to her. If this variance is for her safety, we need to take this all into account. He also questioned why she does not stay in the main house instead of the other cabin. Vanessa explained that the smaller cabin has always been private quarters for her mother and her grandmother. No further questions
16. Motion to close the public hearing by Jeanie Pitts, second by Lance Laabs, all in favor, motion approved.
17. Motion to go into closed session and make minutes public by Lance Laabs, second by Jeanie Pitts, all in favor, motion approved. A discussion on hardship due to limitations of the property are the slope to the lake, a safe walkway to stay in the house. There is concern that if she fell she would fall down the slope to the lake. There is no harm to the public interest because there is no change to the use of the property and there is already a smaller walkway between cabins. Unnecessary hardship is present for Ms. Laird due to her handicap at this time and her limited use of the property. The committee required a handicap ramp from the back of the walkway that leads to a walkway built of a hard surface so she can exit the building in case of emergency.
18. Motion by Jeanie Pitts to close the close session and return to open session, second by Lance Laabs, all in favor, motion approved. Motion to approve the variance with the conditions discussed by Lance Laabs, second by Jeanie Pitts, all in favor, motion approved.
19. Harry Thurin informed the applicant that the variance was approved with the two conditions as stated above.
20. No other business
21. Motion to adjourn by Lance Laabs, second by Jeanie Pitts, all in favor, motion approved.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_07/19/2017