

New London Council Zoning Appeal Hearing
November 11, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.

Present: Janice Myers, Mike Willis, Bill Curtis, Stuart Cooke, Jennifer Ball, Shawn Pickworth, Bob James, Robert Travis, Don Patton, Steven Bond

Council President Stuart Cooke called to order a special meeting of the Council for the purpose of hearing an appeal from the Zoning Commission.

Bob James announced that the purpose of the hearing was to allow members of council to vote on whether they would uphold the decision of the Zoning Board to not approve the variance of Robert Travis to divide his lot into two separate lots due to the lot being too small.

Robert Travis stated that he was appealing the decision because the law allows for exceptions and he believes that he falls within those exceptions. There would be no environmental impact. He sees the variance as a benefit to the village. There would be another homeowner paying property tax and another village resident. He also noted that there were other lots in the village that are under the required size that had been grandfathered in so he felt his request was reasonable.

Stuart Cooke asked Robert Travis if he could make the one lot larger.

Robert Travis answered that if he did that, the house he wanted to sell would have a small side yard. That is why he had desired to make the lot lopsided. He thought aesthetically it would be more pleasing to have a larger side yard.

Steven Bond described the criteria for Council's review of the Planning Commission's decision on the variance, as set forth in the Zoning Ordinance. It basically came down to whether Robert Travis had demonstrated to the Commission a hardship or if he had been deprived of the reasonable use of his land. Mr. Bond continued by saying when council votes they should ask themselves if they felt that the Planning Commission had made a mistake with their recommendation. The second thing they should determine is if Mr. Travis had demonstrated a hardship and finally they should think if he had been deprived of use. After council considered all those factors, they would need to make a motion to either approve the decision of the Commission or to overrule the decision of the Commission.

Council indicated they did not feel that Mr. Travis had demonstrated any of the criteria necessary to warrant overruling the Commission's decision.

Bill Curtis made a motion to approve the decision of the Planning Commission and not allow the variance. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Cooke, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Ball, Yes.

Meeting adjourned.



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer



Stuart Cooke
Council President