

Case # BZA-05-22-00582 Charleston County BZA Meeting of July 11, 2022

Applicant:

Ross Appel of McCullough, Khan, Appel

Property Owner:

Gregory F. Rayburn

Property Location:

3340 Oak Branch Road - Johns Island

TMS#:

256-00-00-012

Zoning District:

Agricultural Residential (AGR) Zoning District

Request:

Variance request to reduce:

- the required 30' rear setback by 27' to 3' and the required 15' interior side setback by 10' to 5' for an existing (18' x 20') shed;
- the required 15' interior side setback by 11' to 4' for an existing (8' x 10') shed;
- the required 50' front/street side setback by 28' to 22' and the required 15' interior side setback by 3' to 12' for an existing (10' x 12') shed; and
- the required 50' front/street side setback by 35' to 15' for an existing (18' x 20') carport.

Requirement:

The Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), Chapter 4 Base Zoning Districts, Article 4.9 AGR, Agricultural Residential District, Sec. 4.9.3 Density/Intensity and Dimensional Standards requires a 30' rear setback, 15' interior side setbacks, and a 50' front/street side setback.



Sec. 4.8.4 Other Regulations

Development in the AG-8 District shall comply with all other applicable regulations of this Ordinance, including the standards of CHAPTER 9, *Development Standards*.

ARTICLE 4.9 AGR, AGRICULTURAL/RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

Sec. 4.9.1 Purpose and intent

The AGR, Agricultural Residential Zoning District implements the Agricultural Residential policies of the *Comprehensive Plan*. The district is intended for application in all Settlement Areas.

Sec. 4.9.2 Use Regulations

Uses are allowed in the AGR District in accordance with the Use Regulations of CHAPTER 6, Use Regulations.

Sec. 4.9.3 Density/Intensity and Dimensional Standards

All Development in the AGR District shall be subject to the following Density/Intensity and Dimensional Standards:

Table 4.	9.3, AGR Density/Intensity and Dimensional Stan	dards	
计是写真的是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是是	Non-Waterfront Development Standards	Waterfront Development Standards	
MAXIMUM DENSITY	1 Principal Dwelling Unit per Acre		
MINIMUM LOT AREA	30,000 square feet 1 acre		
MINIMUM LOT WIDTH	100 feet	125 feet	
MINIMUM LOT WIDTH AVERAGE	N/A 150 feet		
MINIMUM SETBACKS			
Front/Street Side	50 feet		
Interior Side	15 feet		
Rear	30 feet		
WETLAND, WATERWAY, AND OCRM CRITICAL LINE SETBACK	N/A	50 feet	
WETLAND, WATERWAY, AND OCRM CRITICAL LINE BUFFER	N/A	35 feet	
MAXIMUM BUILDING COVER	30% of Lot		
MAXIMUM HEIGHT	35 feet		

Effective on: 9/10/2017, as amended

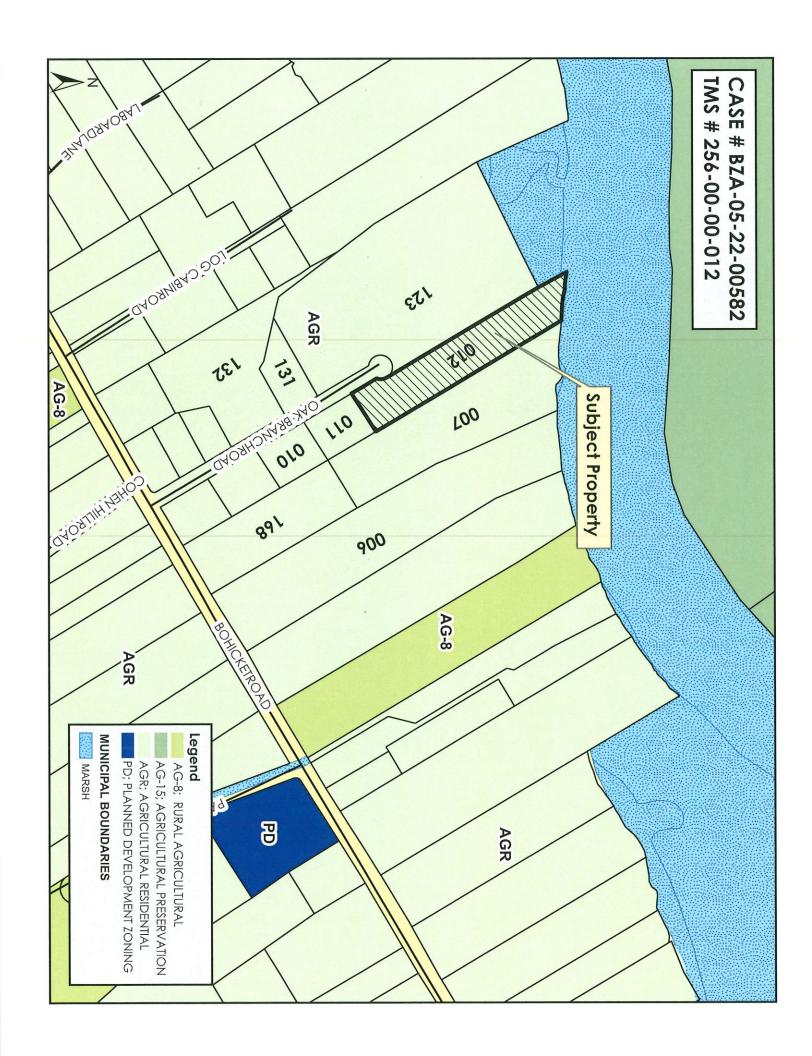
Sec. 4.9.4 Other Regulations

Development in the AGR District shall comply with all other applicable regulations of this Ordinance, including the standards of CHAPTER 9, *Development Standards*.

Sec. 4.9.5 Settlement Areas

Settlement Areas include small older Crossroads communities, Family lands, typical suburban-style Subdivisions, Frontage Lots along local roads, waterfront Developments, and vacant land that has been subdivided for residential Use but not yet built upon. The criteria for additional Parcels to qualify for inclusion into a "Settlement Area" are as follows:

- A. Parcel size of 30 acres or less (including highland areas and Freshwater Wetlands) on Parcels existing prior to April 21, 1999; and
- B. Parcel must be located in an AG-8, AG-10, or RM Zoning Districts or adjacent to lands currently zoned AGR; and

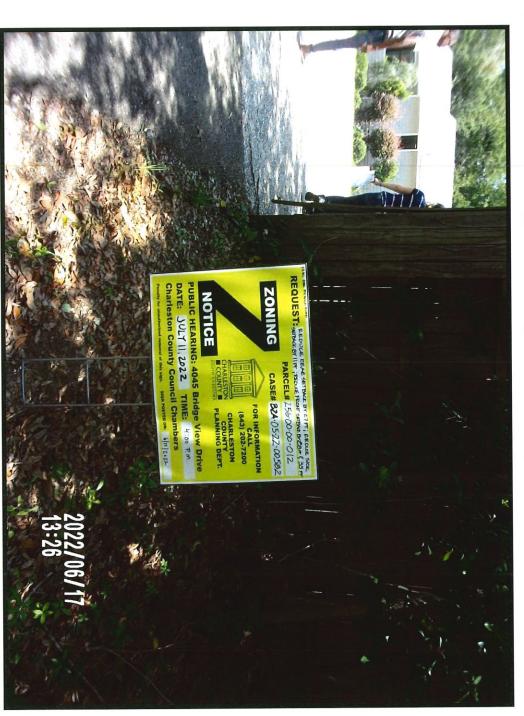






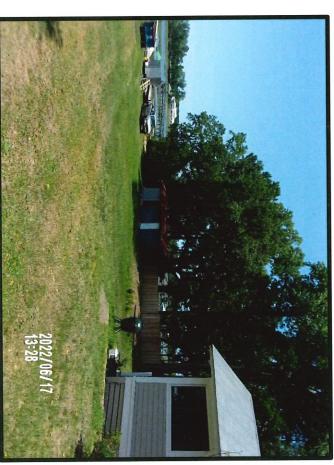
Subject Property: 3340 Oak Branch Road — Johns Island BZA Meeting of July 11, 2022 Case # BZA-05-22-00582

Proposal: Variance request to reduce the required interior side, rear, and front/street side setbacks for existing accessory structures (sheds and a carport).



Subject Property





Subject Property- Carport

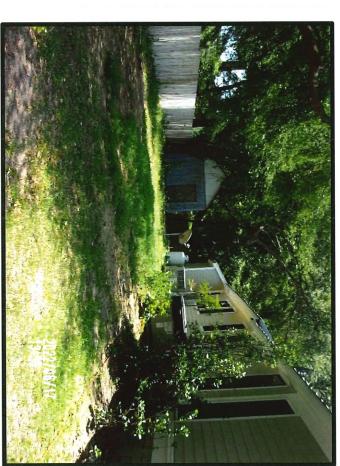
Subject Property- Shed A and B



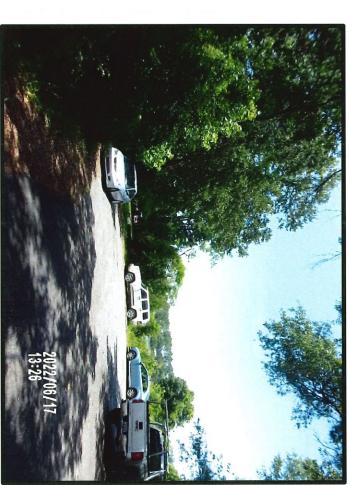


Subject Property Shed C





2022/06/17



Oak Branch Road

Staff Review:

The applicant, Ross Appel, Esq. of McCullough, Khan, Appel, on behalf of the property owner, Gregory F. Rayburn, is requesting a variance to reduce the required interior side, rear, and front/street setbacks at 3340 Oak Branch Road (TMS # 256-00-00-012) on Johns Island in Charleston County.

More specifically the applicant is requesting a Variance to reduce:

- the required 30' rear setback by 27' to 3' and the required 15' interior side setback by 10' to 5' for an existing (18' x 20') shed;
- the required 15' interior side setback by 11' to 4' for an existing (8' x 10') shed;
- the required 50' front/street side setback by 28' to 22' and the required 15' interior side setback by 3' to 12' for an existing (10' x 12') shed; and
- the required 50' front/street side setback by 35' to 15' for an existing (18' x 20') carport.

The subject property contains a single-family home, an unpermitted carport, and four accessory structures, three of which have been installed without permits. The subject property and surrounding properties are located in the Agricultural Residential (AGR) Zoning District.

The applicant's letter of intent explains, "Mr. Rayburn purchased the subject property on October 5, 2021. At the time of purchase, there were three shed structures and one carport located in the setbacks depicted in the attached as-built site plan. Charleston County has advised these structures were never permitted. This was not disclosed to Mr. Rayburn by the seller. We are attempting to permit these structures after the fact to avoid the unnecessary hardship associated with demolishing these structures."

Applicable *ZLDR* requirement:

The Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), Chapter 4 Base Zoning Districts, Article 4.9 AGR, Agricultural Residential District, Sec. 4.9.3 Density/Intensity and Dimensional Standards requires a 30' rear setback, 15' interior side setbacks, and a 50' front/street side setback.

Staff conducted a site visit of the subject property on June 17, 2022.

Planning Director Review and Report regarding Approval Criteria of §3.10.6:

§3.10.6(1): There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the

particular piece of property;

Response: There may be extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the subject property because it is relatively narrow when compared to other adjacent lots. The applicant's letter of intent states, "The Rayburn property (approx. 137' wide and 820' deep) is much longer and narrower that the

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adjacent parcels. This results in a far smaller building envelope once the AGR setbacks are applied. The property to the north (TMS No. 256-00-00-007) owned by Ben and Alexis Stroble is approx. 182' wide and 902' deep) and the undeveloped property to the south (TMS No. 256-00-00-123) is approx. 446' wide and 827' deep." Therefore, the request may meet this criterion.

§3.10.6(2): **Response**:

These conditions do not generally apply to other property in the vicinity;

These conditions do not generally apply to other properties in the vicinity. The applicant's letter of intent explains, "The Rayburn property is uniquely narrow when compared to other properties in the vicinity. Moreover, the three sheds and carport on the Rayburn property are unpermitted and located in the setback. This condition was not disclosed by the seller. It is our understanding that there are no other similar unpermitted structures on other properties in the vicinity. Taken together, the unique configuration of the Rayburn property and the unpermitted structures creates a unique and exceptional situation constituting an 'unnecessary hardship." Therefore, the request may meet this criterion.

§3.10.6(3):

Because of these conditions, the application of this Ordinance to the particular piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property;

Response:

The application of this Ordinance, Article 4.9, Sec. 4.9.3 to 3340 Oak Branch Road may unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property. The applicant's letter of intent states, "The existing one-story residential dwelling on the Rayburn property is modest. Therefore, the shed structures are needed to house yard maintenance equipment and other items that cannot be housed inside. This property is outside the Urban Growth Boundary and is considered part of rural Johns Island. It would be unreasonable for this property not to be allowed to have the customary and necessary shed structures and a carport. The limited building envelope on the property leaves no option other than to locate these features in one of the AGR setbacks." Therefore, the request may meet this criterion.

§3.10.6(4):

The authorization of a variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be harmed by the granting of the variance;

Response:

Authorization of this request may not be of substantial detriment to adjacent properties or to the public good, and the character of the Agricultural Residential Zoning District may not be harmed if this variance is granted. The applicant's letter of intent states, "These structures have apparently been in place for many years. There have been no complaints by neighbors or others to our knowledge. Mr. Rayburn has received the support of his neighbors to the north Ben and Alexis Stroble the owners of

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2770 Bohicket Road (TMS No. 256-00-007). Please find the letter of support from the Strobles enclosed herewith. The property to the south 3339 Oak Branch Drive (TMS No. 256-00-00-123) is undeveloped." Thus, the request may meet this criterion.

§3.10.6(5):

The Board of Zoning Appeals shall not grant a variance the effect of which would be to allow the establishment of a use not otherwise permitted in a zoning district, to extend physically a nonconforming use of land, or to change the zoning district boundaries shown on the official zoning map. The fact that property may be utilized more profitably, should a variance be granted, may not be considered grounds for a variance;

Response:

The variance does not allow a use that is not permitted in this zoning district, nor does it extend physically a nonconforming use of land or change the zoning district boundaries. Therefore, the request meets this criterion.

§3.10.6(6):

The need for the variance is not the result of the applicant's own actions;

Response:

The need for the variance is not the result of the applicant's own actions. The accessory structures were placed without permits by the pervious property owner. The applicant purchased the property with its current conditions in 2021. Therefore, the request meets this criterion.

§3.10.6(7):

Granting of the variance does not substantially conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of the Ordinance;

Response:

Granting of the variance may not substantially conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of the Ordinance if the Board finds that strict application of the provisions of the Ordinance results in an unnecessary hardship. Therefore, the request may meet this criterion.

Board of Zoning Appeals' Action:

According to Article 3.10 Zoning Variances, Section §3.10.6 Approval Criteria of the Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), (adopted July 18, 2006), The Board of Zoning Appeals has the authority to hear and decide appeals for a Zoning Variance when strict application of the provisions of this Ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship (§3.10.6A). A Zoning Variance may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship if the Board of Zoning Appeals makes and explains in writing their findings (§3.10.6B Approval Criteria).

In granting a variance, the Board of Zoning Appeals may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building or structure as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare (§3.10.6C).

The Board of Zoning Appeals may approve, approve with conditions or deny Case #BZA-05-22-00582 [Variance request to reduce the required 30' rear setback by 27' to 3' and the required 15' interior side setback by 10' to 5' for an existing (18' x 20') shed; the required 15' interior side setback by 11' to 4' for an existing (8' x 10') shed; the required 50' front/street side setback by 28' to 22' and the required 15' interior side setback by 3' to 12' for an existing (10' x 12') shed; and the required 50' front/street side setback by 35' to 15' for an existing (18' x 20') carport at 3340 Oak Branch Road (TMS # 256-00-00-012) on Johns Island in Charleston County] based on the BZA's "Findings of Fact," unless additional information is deemed necessary to make an informed decision. In the event the BZA decides to approve the application, Staff recommends the following condition:

1. The applicant shall obtain all necessary permits for the unpermitted accessory structures.



ZONING VARIANCE APPLICATION Charleston County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

Property Information					
Subject Property Address: 3340 Oak Branch Road, Johns Island, SC 29455					
Tax Map Number(s): 256-00-012					
Current Use of Property: Residential					
Proposed Use of Property: Residential					
Applicant Information (Required)					
Applicant Name (please print): Ross Appel, Esq. (McCullough, Khan, Appel)					
Name of Company (if applicable): n/a					
Mailing Address: 2036 eWall Street					
City: Mt. Pleasant	State: SC		Zip Code: 29464		
Email Address: ross@mklawsc.co		Phone #: 84	43-937-9798		
Applicant Signature:			Date: S-17-27		
Representative Information Complete only if applicable. Attorney, Builder, Engineer, Surveyor etc.)					
Print Representative Name and Name of Company:					
Mailing Address:					
City:	State:	Zi	p Code:		
Email Address:		Phone #:	Phone #:		
Designation of Agent (Complete only if the Applicant listed above is not the Property Owner.)					
I hereby appoint the person named as Applicant and/or Representative as my (our) agent to represent me (us) in this application.					
Property Owner(s) Name(s) (please print): Gregory F. Rayburn					
Name of Company (if applicable, LLC etc.): n/a					
Property Owner(s) Mailing Address: 3340 Oak Branch Road					
City: Johns Island	State: SC	Zip Code: 29455	Phone #: 843-226-2675		
Property Owner(s) Email Address; greg, rayhurn@kobipartners.com					
Property Owner(s) Signature:			Date: 5 17 2022		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:					
Zoning District: AGR Flood Zor	ne: X 665	∠ Date Filed: 5	18 200 Fee Paid		
Application #: BVA-05-22-0058	72 TMS#: 256	-00-00-012	Staff Initials:		

Description of Request

Please describe your proposal in detail. You may attach a separate sheet if necessary. Additionally, you may provide any supporting materials that are applicable to your request (photographs, letter of support, etc.)

Mr. Rayburn purchased the subject property on October 5, 2021. At the time of purchase, there were three shed structures and one carport located in the setbacks depicted in the attached as-built site plan. Charleston County has advised these structures were never permitted. This was not disclosed to Mr. Rayburn by the seller. We are attempting to permit these structures after the fact to avoid the unnecessary hardship associated with demolishing these structures.

Applicant's response to Article 3.10 Zoning Variances, §3.10.6 Approval Criteria

Zoning Variances may be approved only if the Board of Zoning Appeals finds that the proposed use meets all 7 of the approval criteria. In evaluating your request, the members of the board will review the answers below as a part of the case record. You may attach a separate sheet if necessary.

1. Are there extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the subject property? Explain:

The Rayburn property (approx. 137' wide and 820' deep) is much longer and narrower that the adjacent parcels. This results in a far smaller building envelope once the AGR setbacks are applied. The property to the north (TMS No. 256-00-00-007) owned by Ben and Alexis Stroble is approx. 182' wide and 902' deep) and the undeveloped property to the south (TMS No. 256-00-00-123) is approx. 446' wide and 827' deep.

2. Do these conditions generally apply to other property in the vicinity or are they unique to the subject property? Explain:

No. The Rayburn property is uniquely narrow when compared to other properties in the vicinity. Moreover, the three sheds and carport on the Rayburn property are unpermitted and located in the setback. This condition was not disclosed by the seller. It is our understanding that there are no other similar unpermitted structures on other properties in the vicinity. Taken together, the unique configuration of the Rayburn property and the unpermitted structures creates a unique and exceptional situation constituting an "unnecessary hardship."

3. Because of these extraordinary and exceptional conditions, does the application of this Ordinance to the subject property effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property? Explain:

The existing one-story residential dwelling on the Rayburn property is modest. Therefore, the shed structures are needed to house yard maintenance equipment and other items that cannot be housed inside. This property is outside the Urban Growth Boundary and is considered part of rural Johns Island. It would be unreasonable for this property not to be allowed to have the customary and necessary shed structures and a carport. The limited building envelope on the property leaves no option other than to locate these features in one of the AGR setbacks.

4. Will the authorization of a variance be a substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good? Will the character of the zoning district be harmed if this variance is granted? Explain:

These structures have apparently been in place for many years. There have been no complaints by neighbors or others to our knowledge. Mr. Rayburn has received the support of his neighbors to the north Ben and Alexis Stroble the owners of 2770 Bohicket Road (TMS No. 256-00-00-007). Please find the letter of support from the Strobles enclosed herewith. The property to the south 3339 Oak Branch Drive (TMS No. 256-00-00-123) is undeveloped.

5. The BZA shall not grant a variance the effect of which would be to allow the establishment of a use not otherwise permitted in a zoning district, to extend physically a Nonconforming Use of land, or to change the zoning district boundaries shown on the Official Zoning Map. The fact that property may be utilized more profitably if a Zoning Variance is granted shall not be considered grounds for granting a Zoning Variance. Does the variance request meet this criterion?

This variance request does not seek to a establish a use not permitted in the AGR district. Nor does it seek a physical extension of a non-conformity. We are merely seeking after the fact permits for three sheds and a carport that existed on the property at the time of my client's purchase in October 2021.

6. Is the need for the variance the result of applicant's own actions? Explain:

No. The three sheds and carport were built and not-permitted by Mr. Rayburn's predecessors. Furthermore, Mr. Rayburn is not responsible for the configuration of his lot, relative to his neighbors, as he was not involved in the original subdivision process.

7. Does the variance substantially conflict with the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of the Ordinance? Explain:

No. The structures for which variances and after the fact permits are being sought are all consistent with AGR zoning, the intent of the AGR zoning district, and the Comprehensive Plan's land use policies regarding rural areas, generally, and rural Johns Island outside of the Urban Growth Boundary, specifically.

In granting a variance, the Board of Zoning Appeals may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building or structure as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare.

Ben and Alexis Stroble

2770 Bohicket Road Johns Island, SC 29455

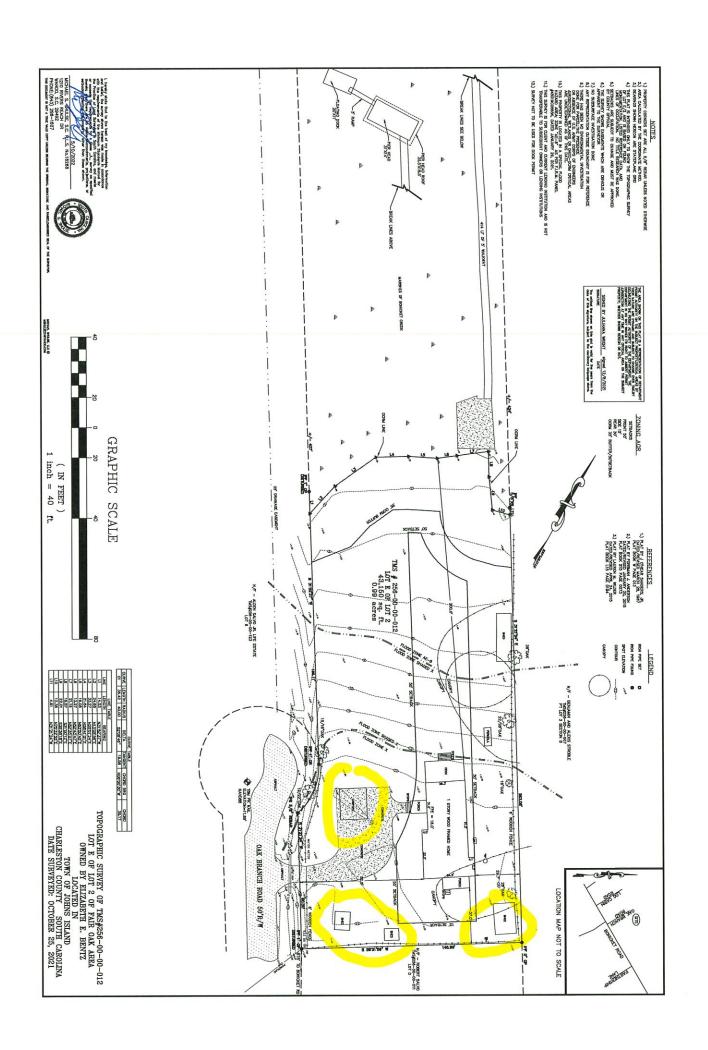
To: The Charleston County Zoning Board

To whom it may concern, our neighbor, Greg Rayburn, is requesting a variance for structures that were built on his property prior to his ownership.

We are the only neighbors directly adjacent to the property (3440 Oak Branch Road) and we support Greg Rayburns request for a variance.

Alexis Stroble

Date



1, v. O'Hear Sanders, Vr., a registered BOHICKET CREEK Jr 380,2 J 1.45 The torecorded this 27. day of Age. 1967 attack. ingiN Office of Register Mesne Conveyance Charleston, South Carolina 1007 25' DRAINAGE EASEMENT ired in File. H. Drawer ... / Folder 52, Drawe Salva himse & ackerman . Original plat (a.....print) delivered Lands Register hesit conveyance \$ 29-15 E Mic X John Kyras Lands andro 230. OAK & BRANCH DR. N29-15W BOOKS 87 M3E235 BORN GREEN CHRON COMPLETE & 240 to Bohicket Rd. -100 0

installed all necessary markers have been to an accuracy of 1:4356 and that correct survey made on the ground certify that this is a true and surveyor in the state of s.c. do hereby

Strong S. C. Rose Conf.

Freviously Approved Suledivision

County of Charleston State of South Carolina Toffle an 4/18/12

Showing Lot E, of Lot 2 Betsey Field Tract, Johns Island

March 28, 1967

Surveyor S.C. Reg. 499 1.0 Hoor Sanders W. Scole 1 = 60'

sewer avaliable (2) No public water or sanitary (i) Developer; Curtis V. Tennyson

(3) Arica; O.91 Acres High Land 1.12 Acres Salt Marsh

No+a