

Case # BZA-06-25-00872

Charleston County BZA Meeting of August 4, 2025

Applicant: Chris McCarthy of Ravenel Construction Group

Property Owners: Peter and Rhonda Rubcic

Property Location: 2997 Maritime Forest Drive – Johns Island

TMS#: 203-12-00-051

Zoning District: Planned Development (PD-27E, Kiawah River

Estates) Zoning District

Request: Variance request to reduce the required 30' rear

setback by 16.6' to 13.4' at the closest point for a

proposed swimming pool.

Requirement:

The Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), Chapter 4 Base Zoning Districts, Article 4.25 PD, Planned Development Zoning District, Sec. 4.25.10 Variances and Other Modifications to Approved PD Development Plans, C. Variances states, "Upon adoption of this Ordinance, the provisions of Article 3.10 of the ZLDR, relating to Variances, shall apply to all approved PD Development Plans with respect to zoning-related, dimensional, design, or performance standards on individual Lots. Variance applications for Trees, Setbacks, Buffers, height, and maximum Impervious Surface/Building Coverage on individual Lots shall be processed pursuant to Article 3.10, Zoning Variances, of this Ordinance and all requirements of Art. 3.10, Zoning Variances, shall apply. All other proposed modifications, except minor modifications as described above, require an amendment to the PD Planned Development Plan, in accordance with the procedure specified in this Article."

PD-27E, Kiawah River Estates Planned Development Zoning District requires a 30' rear setback for lots adjacent to the golf course.



CHAPTER 4 | BASE ZONING DISTRICTS

ARTICLE 4.25 PD, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ZONING DISTRICT

Sec. 4.25.10 Variances and Other Modifications to Approved PD Development Plans

The Zoning and Planning Director shall determine whether a proposed modification affecting one or more Parcels in a previously approved PD Development Plan is considered a minor or major modification, or requires a Variance, pursuant to the criteria in this section. Modifications of approved PD Development Plans are categorized as major or minor depending on the type and extent of proposed changes, as described below:

A. Minor Modifications.

- 1. Increase in Common Open Space area;
- 2. Decrease in residential Density or number of Dwelling Units;
- 3. Increase in Setbacks;
- 4. Increase in the area, dimensions, and/or Density of Landscape Buffers;
- 5. Decrease in Building Floor Area;
- 6. Decrease in the number or size of Signs;
- 7. Minor shifts in the layout of the land uses in the Sketch Plan; and
- 8. Minor shifts in the location of access points or internal Roadways necessary to resolve regulatory (e.g., SCDOT) permitting issues.

The Zoning and Planning Director is authorized to approve minor modifications to an approved PD Development Plan.

B. Major Modifications.

- 1. Any modification not considered "minor" pursuant to paragraph A, above, is considered a major modification.
- 2. Major modifications require an amendment to the PD Development Plan, in accordance with the procedure specified in this Article.
- 3. Any PD Amendment must comply with all requirements of this Article.

C. Variances.

- 1. Upon adoption of this Ordinance, the provisions of Article 3.10 of the ZLDR, relating to Variances, shall apply to all approved PD Development Plans with respect to zoning-related dimensional, design, or performance standards on individual Lots. Variance applications for Trees, Setbacks, Buffers, height, and maximum Impervious Surface/Building Coverage on individual Lots shall be processed pursuant to Article 3.10, *Zoning Variances*, of this Ordinance and all requirements of Art. 3.10, *Zoning Variances*, shall apply. All other proposed modifications, except minor modifications as described above, require an amendment to the PD Development Plan, in accordance with the procedure specified in this Article.
- 2. The Director's determination does not bind the Board of Zoning Appeals to a particular decision.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

General Guidelines applicable to all property owners and all lands and improvements within the property.

1. Siting

Siting to assure that the building and other structures will be located so that reasonable view, privacy, and breeze will be available to the largest practical number of buildings or structures within the property. The structures shall be located with regard to topography of each property taking into consideration the location of large trees, or other aesthetic or environmental conditions and commonly shown on a survey plat.

2. Setback Requirements & Minimum Lot Sizes

A. Front, side and rear yard building setbacks will be enforced throughout the development.

Use	Front Yard Setback	Side Yard Setback	Rear Setback	Lot Size
Single Family	30'	10'	20'***	9500
(includes zero lot line le	ots)			
**Waterfront				
Single Family				
Residential	30'	10'	30'	9500
****Patio Homes	10'	5'	10'	5000
Town Homes	20'	0'	15'	700
Multi-Family				
Marsh Villas				
(For Each		52.	(22)	
Attached Grouping)	20'	10'	20'	None
Recreational				
Club House	20'	20'	20'	None
Utilities:				
Water Tank	20'	15'	15'	None

Multi-Family
Apartments
(For Each
Attached Grouping)

20'

10'

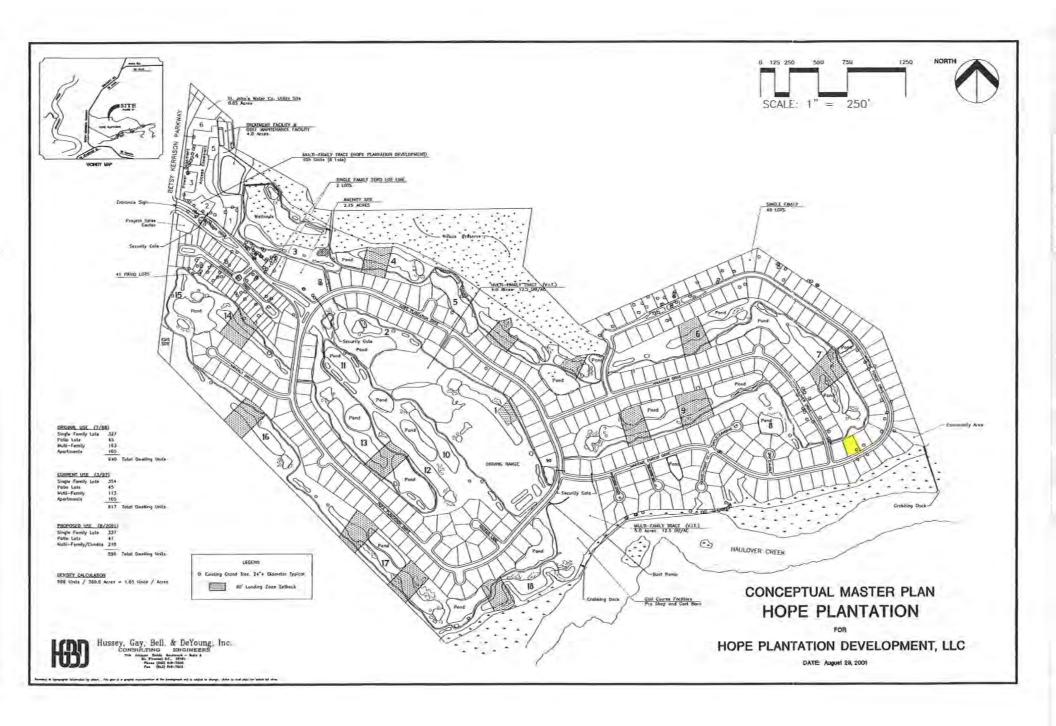
20'

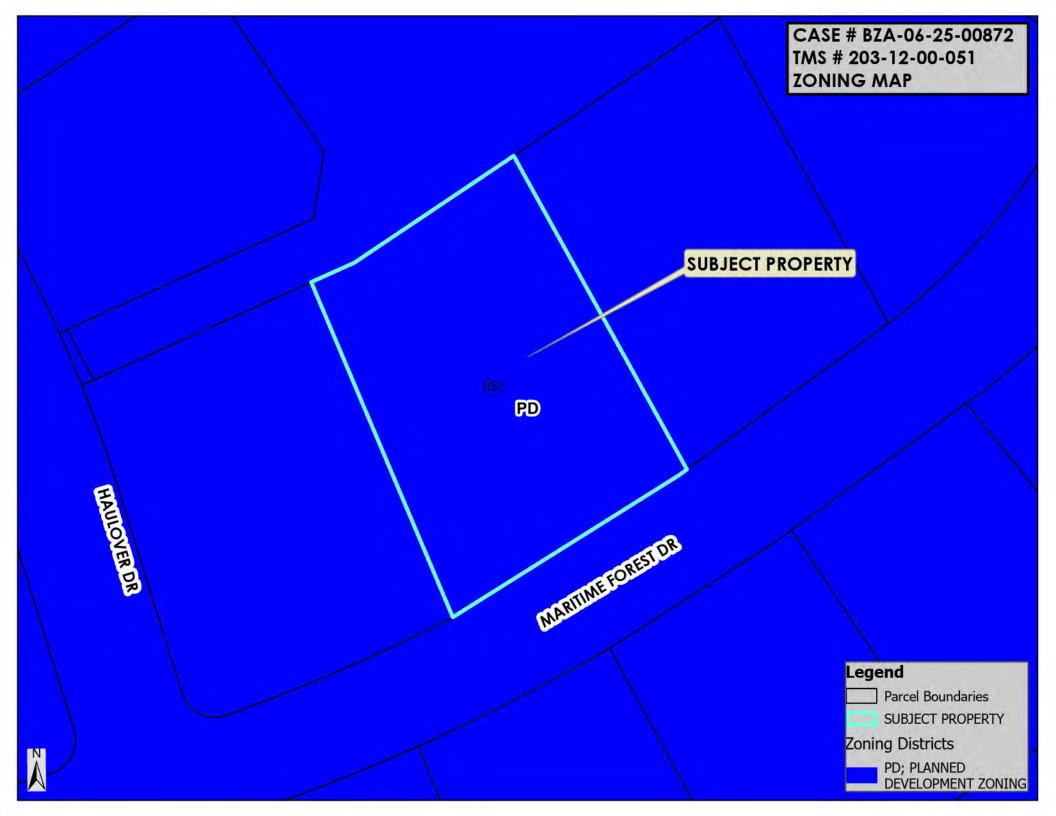
None

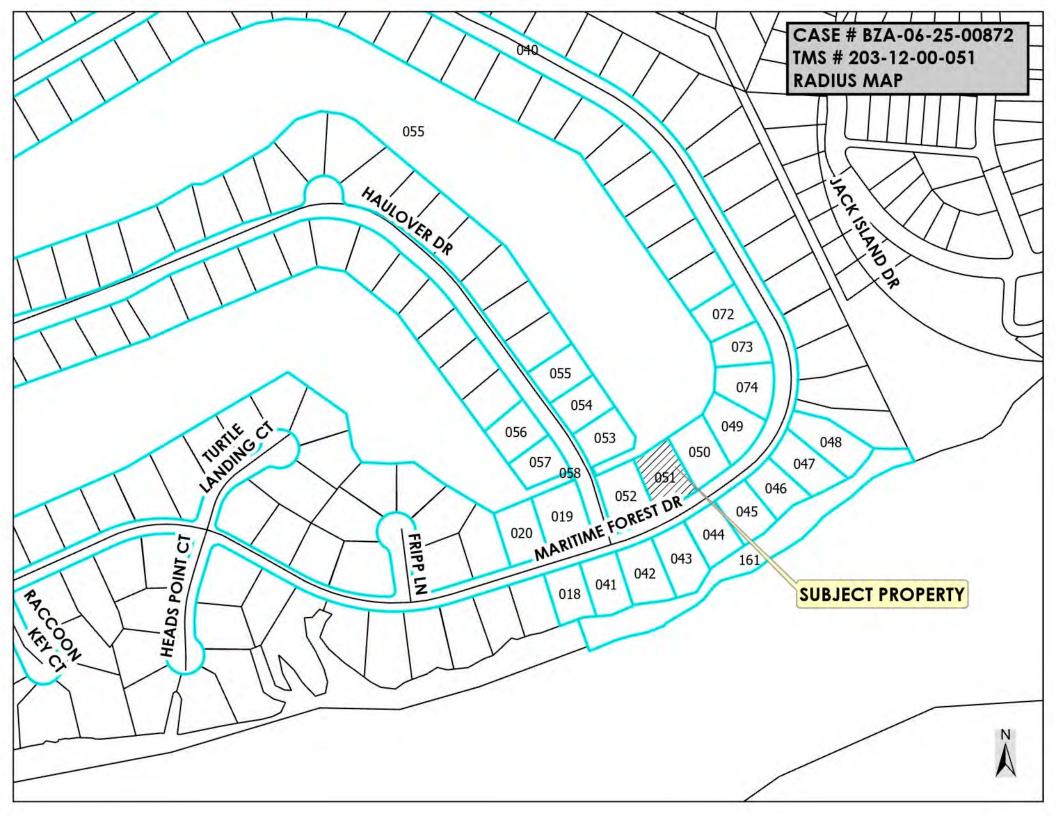
- * Owners of single-family residential lots on corners may have the right to select one of the lot sides facing the street as their front yard, and the other side may be treated as their side yard. The side yard setback for a lot side facing a street will become 15 feet. Two (2) Zero Lot Line lots adjacent to Amenity Site will have one side lot line setback of zero (0') feet and one side lot line setback of ten (10') feet. Dwelling units for zero lot line lots may include a common wall.
- ** No dwelling unit, or building may be erected within 30 feet of the center point of the line adjacent to a marsh edge on any part of the property as shown on a recorded development plat. Reasonable variances for structures such as decks and entertainment structures will require site location approval by the Home Owners' Association, Charleston County Planning Department and the Charleston County Zoning Board of Adjustments. Dwelling units adjacent to a marsh within the B-1 land use classification shall be limited in height to 2 stories and a roof structure.
- *** Rear lot setbacks for lots adjacent to golf course shall be as follows:
 - Forty foot (40') setback with ten-foot (10') planted landscape easement for lots fronting on golf landing areas as shown on Master Plan.
 - Thirty foot (30') setback with ten-foot (10') planted landscape easement for all other golf course lots.

Plantings within ten foot (10') landscape easement shall comply with the following standards:

- Non-wooded lots shall be planted with a minimum of four (4) canopy trees and three (3) understory trees.
- Wooded lots shall not be required to plant within the buffer if an equivalent number of existing trees are left to remain between the house and the golf course.
- Sizes for new planted trees shall meet Charleston County Standards Canopy Trees - 2 ½" Caliper; Understory Trees - 6' - 8' in height.
- 4) Hope Plantation Property Owners' Association (P.O.A.) and Architectural Review Board (ARB) shall review and approve the planting plan for the 10' landscape easement at the time house plans are submitted for review and approval to obtain a County Building Permit. The POA/ARB has the authority, with approval by Charleston County Zoning Administrator, to vary











Case # BZA-06-25-00872
BZA Meeting of August 4, 2025
Subject Property: 2997 Maritime Forest Drive — Johns Island

Proposal: Variance request to reduce the required 30' rear setback for a proposed swimming pool.



Subject Property





Subject Property





Staff Review:

The applicant, Chris McCarthy of Ravenel Construction Group, on behalf of the property owners, Peter and Rhonda Rubcic, are requesting a variance to reduce the required 30' rear setback by 16.6' to 13.4' at the closest point for a proposed swimming pool at 2997 Maritime Forest Drive (TMS # 203-12-00-051) on Johns Island in Charleston County. The subject property and adjacent properties are located in the Kiawah River Estates, (PD-27E) Planned Development Zoning District.

There is currently a single-family home under construction on the 0.38-acre subject property. The applicant's letter of intent explains, "Applicant/Owner seeks relaxation of the 30' Rear Yard Setback for an in-ground pool. This new build house is setback well beyond (20'+/-) the required Front Yard Setback, in order to preserve many Live Oaks, and as such, impinges into the Rear Yard. The adjoining lot to the rear appears to be a flag lot and it is improbable that a structure would be placed in vicinity of the proposed pool. Furthermore, a landscape buffer borders this pool."

Applicable ZLDR requirement:

The Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), Chapter 4 Base Zoning Districts, Article 4.25 PD, Planned Development Zoning District, Sec. 4.25.10 Variances and Other Modifications to Approved PD Development Plans, C. Variances states, "Upon adoption of this Ordinance, the provisions of Article 3.10 of the ZLDR, relating to Variances, shall apply to all approved PD Development Plans with respect to zoning-related, dimensional, design, or performance standards on individual Lots. Variance applications for Trees, Setbacks, Buffers, height, and maximum Impervious Surface/Building Coverage on individual Lots shall be processed pursuant to Article 3.10, Zoning Variances, of this Ordinance and all requirements of Art. 3.10, Zoning Variances, shall apply. All other proposed modifications, except minor modifications as described above, require an amendment to the PD Planned Development Plan, in accordance with the procedure specified in this Article."

Kiawah River Estates (PD-27E) Planned Development Zoning District requires a 30' rear setback for lots adjacent to the golf course.

Staff conducted a site visit of the subject property on July 17, 2025. Please review the attachments for further information regarding this request.

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

0.38-acre property. The applicant's letter of intent states, "The parcel is

heavily treed: the placement of the house and pool preserves many Live and Grand Oaks. The Kiawah River Estates (KRE) Architectural Review Committee (ARC) concurs and supports a Rear Yard Setback Variance to within 10' of the rear property. Applicant respectfully requests relaxation of the 30' setback for this in-ground pool." 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 may not generally apply to other properties in the vicinity. **The applicant's letter of intent states, "**Generally unique. Other properties may not have oaks restricting placement into the front yard, nor is the unusual geometry of the rear adjacent property an extenuating

circumstance." 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, Chapter 4 Base Zoning Districts, Article 4.25 PD, Planned Development Zoning District Sec. 4.25.10 Variances and Other Modifications to Approved PD Development Plans, C. Variances and PD-27E, Kiawah River Estates Planned Development, IV. General Guidelines, 2. Setback Requirements & Minimum Lot Sizes to 2997 Maritime Forest Drive prohibits construction of a swimming pool, however it does not unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property. Therefore, the request may not meet this criterion. However, the applicant's letter of intent contends, "Property of this value, will usually have a house and amenities commensurate to the cost of the land. While not prohibiting utilization, the house placement and denial of Rear Yard Setback Variance would restrict utilization."

§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 Kiawah River Estates Planned Development may not be harmed if this variance is granted. The KRE, ARC granted approval of the proposed setback and swimming pool location. The applicant's letter of intent states, "No it will not. Due to the adjacent rear lot configuration, the landscape buffer, landscape screening and heavily treed parcel, no harm will result to the district from approval of the Rear Yard Setback variance." Therefore, 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 <u>meets</u> 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 the result of the applicant's own actions.

Therefore, the request <u>may not meet</u> this criterion. However, the applicant's letter of intent contends, "In collaboration with the KRE Architectural Review Committee, the placement of the house to preserve front yard trees was a

group effort resulting in a shortened rear yard."

§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 the strict application of the provisions of the Ordinance results in an

unnecessary hardship. Therefore, the request <u>may meet</u> 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-06-25-00872 [Variance request to reduce the required 30' rear setback by 16.6' to 13.4' at the closest point for a proposed swimming pool at 2997 Maritime Forest Drive (TMS # 203-12-00-051) 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 Board decides to approve the application, the Board should consider the following condition recommended by Staff:

1. The encroachment area shall be limited to the footprint shown on the submitted site plan.

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

Property Information			
Subject Property Address:	2997 MARIT	TIME FOREST	DRIVE JOHNS 15 2995
Tax Map Number(s):	203-12-00		- (1142 [7]
Current Use of Property:	UNDER CONS		
Proposed Use of Property:	SFR		
Zoning Variance Description:	REAR YARD	SETBACK REL	AXATION - IN GROUND
Applicant Information (Rec			POOL
Applicant Name (please print):	CHRIS MCC	シアナナイ	
Name of Company (if applicable		CONSTRUCTION	1 GROUP
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:		Zip Code:
Email Address:		Phone #:	
Applicant Signature:	in All Carle	ter	Date: JUNE 10 2025
Representative Information	on (Complete only if applicab)	e. Attorney, Builder, Engineer, S	urveyor etc.)
Print Representative Name and	Name of Company:	SAME CHEIS	MCCARTHY CONSTRGI
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:		lip Code:
Email Address:		Phone #:	
Designation of Agent (Com	plete only if the Applicant list	ed above is not the Property Ow	mer.)
I hereby appoint the person nar	med as Applicant and/or Repr	esentative as my (our) agent to	represent me (us) in this application.
Property Owner(s) Name(s) (ple	ase print): PETER 年	RHONDA RUBCI	c
Name of Company (if applicable			
Property Owner(s) Mailing Add	ress:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:	Phone #:
Property Owner(s) Email Addres	ss:		
Property Owner(s) Signature.	11/1:00	mobilifica)	Date: 6-16-2025
Color Color	The second secon	OFFICE USE ONLY:	2000
Zoning District: PD -276	Flood Zone: AE(3 C		24 25 Fee Paid: 25°
Application #: BZAG	-25-0087 2tms #:	203 12 00 051	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.)

APPLICANT/OWNER SEEKS RELAXATION OF 30' RYSB FOR AN IN-GROUND POOL. THIS NEW-BUILD HOUSE IS SET BACK WELL BEYOND (20'2')
THE REQ'D F. T.S.B., INDREAD TO PRESERVE MANY LIVE OAKS,...
AND AS SUCH, INPINGES INTO THE REAR YARD. THE ADJOINING LOT TO THE REAR, APPEARS TO BE A FLAG LOT & IT IS IMPROBABLE THAT A STRUCTURE WOULD BE PLACED IN VICINITY OF PROPOSED POOL. FURTHERMORE ALAND-SLAPE BUFFER DORPERS THIS POOL... WHICH IS FURTHERMORE SLEENED.

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 PARCEL IS HEAVILY TREED: THE PACEMENT OF THE HOUSE & POOL PRESERVES MANY LIVE & GRAND OAKS. THE KIAWAH RIVER ESTATES ARC CONCURS & SUPPORTS A RY.S.B. VARIANCE TO WITHIN 10' OF THE REAR PROPERTY. APPLICANT RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS RELAXATION OF 30' SET BACK FOR THIS INGROUND POOL.

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

GENERALLY, ULIQUE. OTHER PROPERTIES MAY NOT HAVE DAKS RESTRICTING PLACEMENT INTO FRONT YARD, NOR IS THE UNUSUAL GEOMETRY OF THE REAR ADJACENT PROPERTY AN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE.

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

PROPERTY OF THIS VALUE, WILL USLALLY HAVE A HOUSE & AMENITIES COMMENSULATE TO THE COST OF THE LAND. WHILE NOT PROHIBITING UTILIZATION, THE HOUSE PACEMENT & PENIAL OF RY.S.B. VARIANCE WOULD RESTRICT UTILIZATION,

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:

NO IT WILL NOT.

PUE TO THE ADVACENT REAK LOT CONFIGURATION, THE

LANDSCAPE BUFFER, LANDSCAPE SCREENING & HEAVILY

TREED PARCEL, ... NO HARM WILL RESULT TO THE DISTRICT, FROM

APPROVAL OF THIS R.T.S. B. VARIANCE.

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?

NO IT FORS NOT.
THIS IS A PRIVATE CITIZEN WHO WANTS TO CREATE
A WONDERFUL HOME FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS.

6. Is the need for the variance the result of your own actions? Explain:

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE KRE-ARCHITECTURAL PEVIEW COMMITTEE, THE PROCEMENT OF THE HOUSE TO PRESERVE F.Y. TREES WAS A GROUP EFFORT-RESULTING IN A SHORTENED REAR YARD.

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

POOL VARIANCES OCUTY FREQUENTLY & HAVE NO IMPACT ON CHS CNTY COMPREHENSIVE FRAN.

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.



KIAWA H RIVER ESTATE S 4530 Hope

Plantation Drive Johns Island, SC 29455

Date 4/22/2025

From: Kiawah River Estates (KRE) Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Point of Contact: Ed Sales KRE BoD Architectural Review Committee Chair

E-mail:

Subject: KRE Variance letter for build on 2997 Maritime Forest Drive

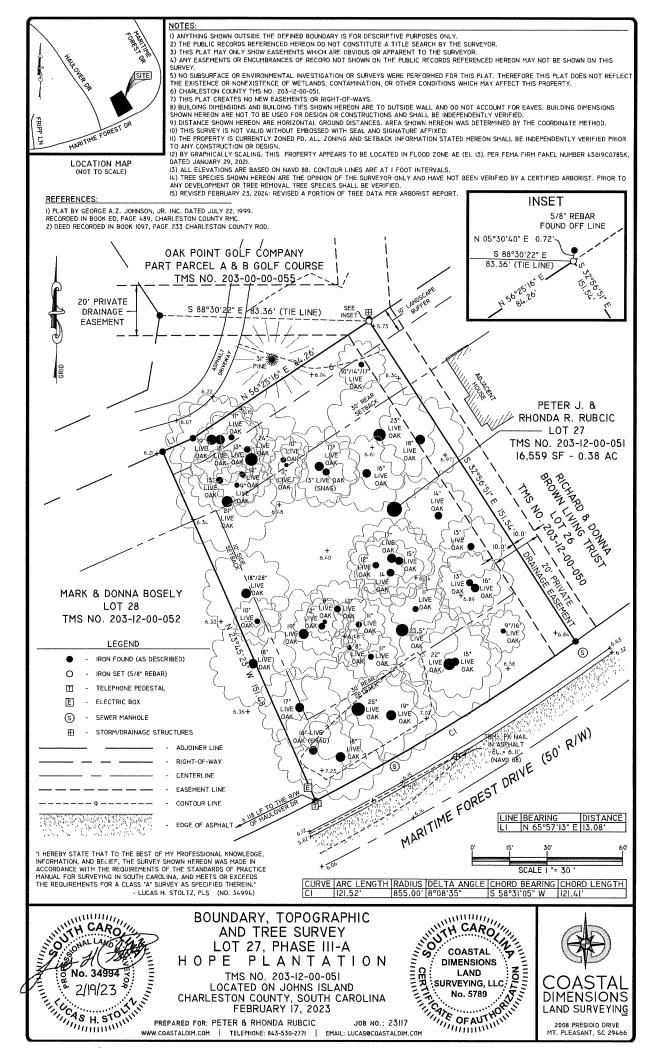
This letter is to certify that the new construction home on 2997 Maritime Forest Drive has received the following variances from the KRE ARC.

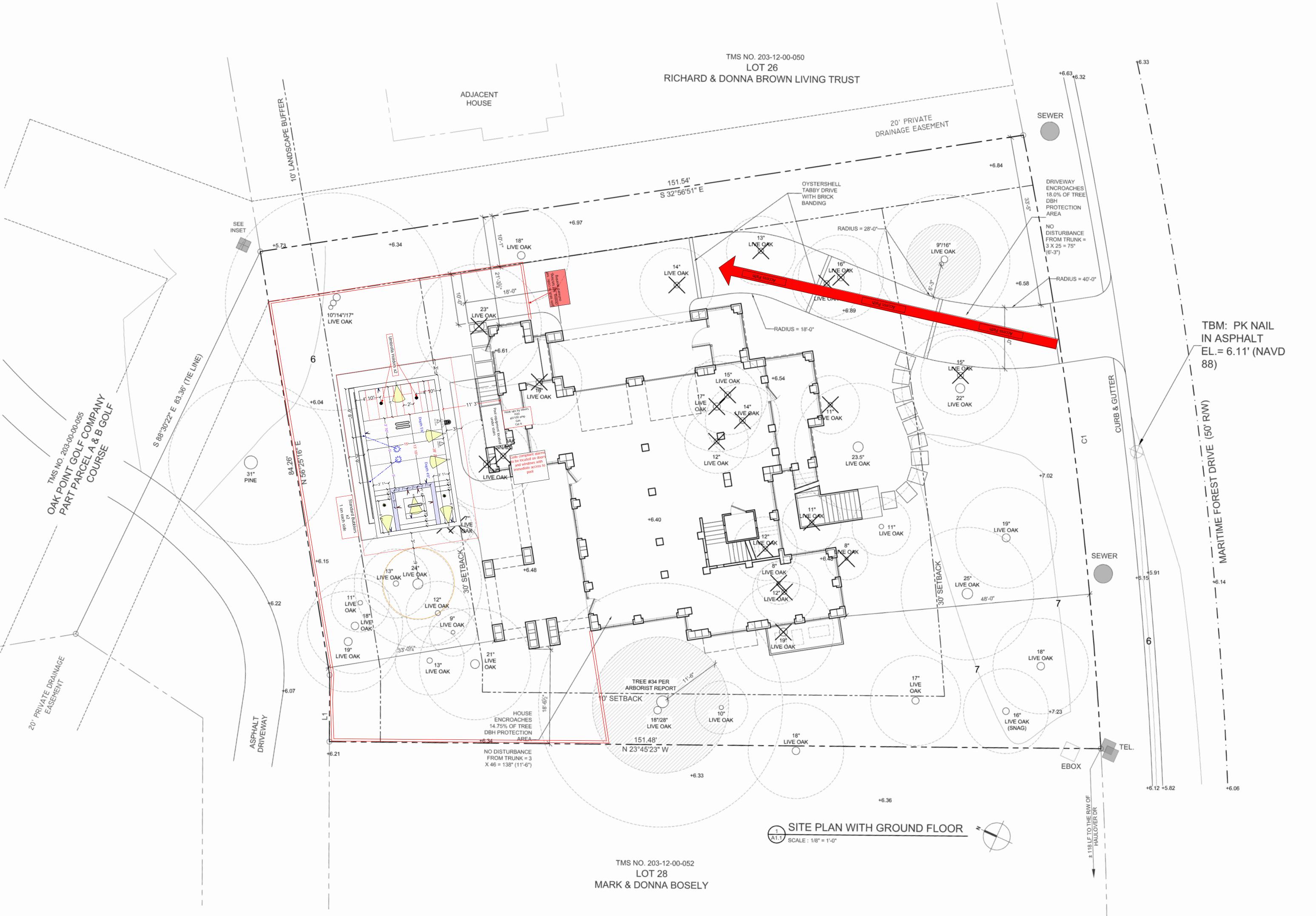
- Swimming Pool
- Setback wavier to 10 feet of rear property line for the approved swimming pool

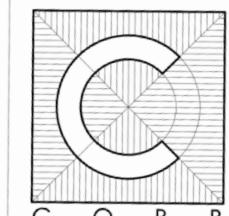
All other requirements remain in effect.

Sincerely,

Ed Sales KRE ARC Chair







C O B B A R C H I T E C T S 67 Washington Street Charleston, SC 29403 p. 843.856.7333 cobbarch@cobbarchitecture.com

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PHASE	DATE

CONTRACTOR

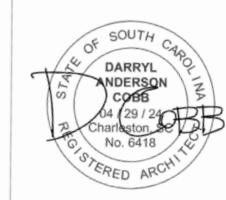
Ravenel Construction Group 1051 Johnnie Dodd Blvd. Suite H Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 Phone: (843) 224-7172

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

J.R. Broadway Co., LLC 3451 Toomer Kiln Circle Mount Pleasant, SC 29466 Phone: (843) 442-3580

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

P.O. Box 867 Johns Island, SC 29457 Phone: (843) 640-3761





PROJECT

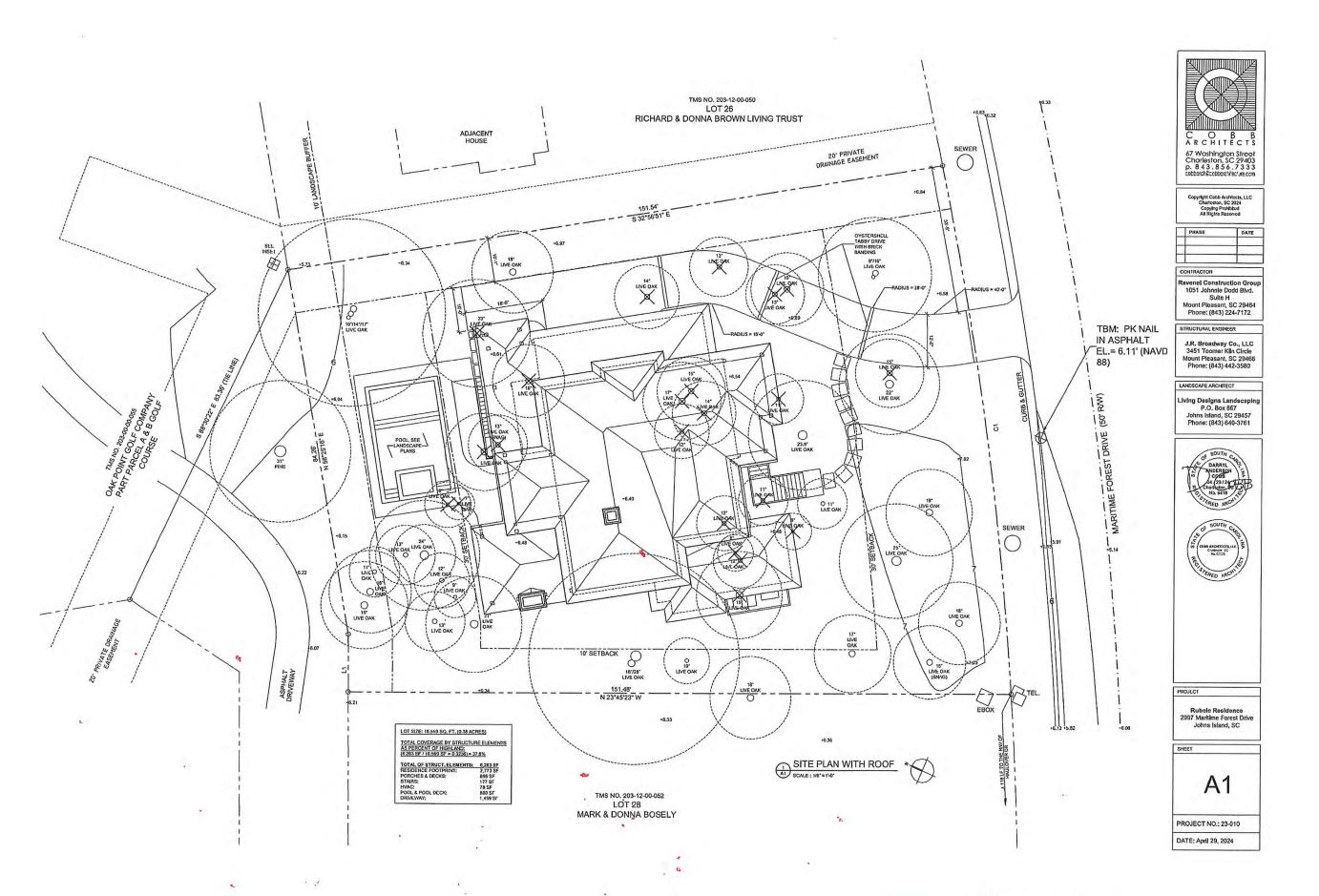
Rubcic Residence 2997 Maritime Forest Drive Johns Island, SC

SHEET

A1.1

PROJECT NO.: 23-010

DATE: April 29, 2024



TIM 203126051

