BZA Number: 170726

# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE <br> BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL <br> 831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139 <br> 617-349-6100 <br> BZA Application Form 

## General Information

The undersigned hereby petitions the Board of Zoning Appeal for the following:
Special Permit: $\qquad$ Variance: $\qquad$ Appeal: $\qquad$

PETITIONER: Joan Wheelis C/O Deborah P. Fawcett, Esq.
PETITIONER'S ADDRESS: 35 Norris Street, Cambridge, MA 02140
LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 10 Hazel St, Cambridge, MA
TYPE OF OCCUPANCY: single family dwelling ZONING DISTRICT: Residence B Zone REASON FOR PETITION:
/New Structure/

## DESCRIPTION OF PETITIONER'S PROPOSAL:

New construction: exceeding F.A.R., and projections into required side yard setbacks

## SECTIONS OF ZONING ORDINANCE CITED:

Article: 5.000 Section: 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements),
Article: 10.000 Section: 10.30 (Variance).

Original

(Petitioner (s) / Owner) DEBORAH P FANjET
(Print Name)
Address:
Tel. No.
E-Mail Address:

## BRA APPLICATION FORM - OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

To be completed by OWNFR, signed before a notary and returned to The Secretary of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

I/We JoAN WHEETIS
(OWNER)
Address: 218 GARDEN ST, CAMBRIDGE, MA O2138
State that I/We own the property located at 10 HAZELSE, catMBRLDOE MA 02138 which is the subject of this zoning application.

The record title of this property is in the name of $\qquad$ JUAN WHERES, INDIVIDUALLY
*Pursuant to a deed of duly recorded in the date $\qquad$ , Middlesex South County Registry of Deeds at Book $\qquad$ , Page $\qquad$ ; or
Middlesex Registry District of Land Court, Certificate No. 249151 Book 1402 Page 81 .


SIGNATURE BY LAND OWNER OR
AUTHORIZED TRUSTEE, OFFICER OR AGENT*
*Written evidence of Agent's standing to represent petitioner may be requested.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, County of


The above-name Joan wheelis $\qquad$ personally appeared before me, this $4^{\text {th }}$ of $A p$ gil. 2022, and made oath that the above statement is true.
 Notary My commission expires $09 / 09 / 2027$ (Notary seal $\begin{gathered}\text { BALA SHAH } \\ \text { Notary Public }\end{gathered}$

- If ownership is not shown in recorded deed, e.g. if by court order, recent deed, or inheritance, please include documentation.







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## BZA Application Form

## SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR A VARIANCE

## EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS FOR A VARIANCE MUST BE ESTABLISHED AND SET FORTH IN COMPLETE DETAIL BY THE APPLICANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH MGL 40A, SECTION 10.

A) A literal enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance would involve a substantial hardship,

The owner of the property, Joan Wheelis, is a longtime resident of Cambridge. She has been living and working in this neighborhood since 1989 and now lives around the corner from 10 Hazel Street, at 218 Garden Street. Joan has owned 10 Hazel Street since 2011 and has been renting it to tenants. It is a small, modest one-story house, which was built in 1961. It has four rooms and 956 square feet of living space. Although it is more than fifty years old, the house is not historically or architecturally significant. Charles Sullivan, Chair of the Cambridge Historical Commission, made this determination on a preliminary basis in June 2021.

218 Garden is a lovely modern house, but at this point in her life, Joan needs a home with some features 218 Garden doesn't have. Like many of us with bad knees, Joan needs her house to have an elevator, so she can avoid the pain of going up and down stairs. She also needs a basement level garage with direct entry into her house, so she no longer has to struggle shoveling snow to access her car. Joan needs her home to include space for her to continue her psychotherapy practice, which is a home occupation permitted as of right under the Zoning Ordinance; and she needs ample space for overnight guests and comfortable accommodation for her son to live with her and help her out in the years to come. Joan also needs to be free of the basement flooding and other water intrusion problems she has often experienced at 218 Garden. The ground level slopes downward along Hazel Street from its intersection with Fayerweather to its intersection with Garden Street, which has been referred to as the "Great Swamp Way."

Joan understands the existential threat climate change poses to our planet, and she is committed to living in a house that is sustainable and energy-efficient, as "green" as reasonably and affordably possible. Joan is passionately interested in trees and gardens and wants to surround her house with them and have ample outdoor space to enjoy them on her property.

The proposed design accomplishes all of these objectives. It has an elevator, a basement level garage, three bedrooms as well as office space, and a variety of spaces for gardening and spending time outdoors, including a green patio wall facing south. The project will include a system of French drains and a cistern for collecting rainwater and preventing downhill runoff.

Importantly, the design includes many elements to make the property "green," including triple pane windows, green building materials and finishes, and shading to prevent overheating. The building's layout is designed to follow the sun, so that each room will have daylight when needed. The building will have roof and wall insulation that exceeds code requirements, as well as exterior insulation at the basement level; and it will
combine geo-thermal and solar energy sources with heat pumps to make the building energy efficient. As designed, the project will meet Joan's objective of having a sustainable home, as "green" as reasonably and affordably possible.

Before coming up with the current design, Joan and her architect carefully examined the existing building at 10 Hazel Street to see if it could be modified to meet the needs they had identified. They found that doing so would be infeasible. The ceilings in the living space of the existing house are very low, and so low in the basement that it is unusable as living and/or office space. The size and the shape of the rooms are not at all in keeping with the design objectives. The existing structure is not strong enough itself to bear the load of the spaces to be added; the existing foundation would make it extremely difficult or impossible. Joan and her architect concluded that it is necessary to demolish the existing building and construct the newly designed home in its place.

As discussed in more detail in the section that follows, the proposed design meets the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance with four small exceptions, all of them stemming from the pre-existing nonconforming characteristics of the lot, which was laid out on a plan long before the current dimensional requirements were adopted.

Because the lot area is less than the required 5,000 square feet, the design's floor area ratio is slightly above the maximum 0.5 . It is 0.52 , only 97 square feet in gross floor area above the maximum for the size of the lot, which is 4,756 square feet. Because the lot is 41 feet wide, rather than the required minimum 50 feet, the design intrudes into the required side yard in three small ways. A small canopy above the side entrance to the building, which provides a means of ingress and egress for the basement level, will extend 3 feet into the side yard on the north (left) side of the building. The bedroom on the second floor will project 1 foot 9 inches into the side yard on the south (right) side of the building. This baylike projection, which provides needed space in the bedroom, will be about 8 feet high and 11 feet wide. Exterior insulation to improve the building's energy efficiency, in keeping with a goal of the Zoning Ordinance, will extend into the side yards by 4 inches on the basement level of the building.
B)

The hardship is owing to the following circumstances relating to the soil conditions, shape or topography of such land or structures and especially affecting such land or structures by not affecting generally the zoning district in which it is located for the following reasons:

The lot itself, which was laid out on a Plan recorded long before the current dimensional requirements were imposed by the Zoning Ordinance, is less than the required minimum area ( 5,000 square feet required; actual area is $4,756 \mathrm{sq}$. ft.) and less than the required minimum width ( 50 feet required; actual width is 41 feet). As such, the lot is a lawful pre-existing nonconforming lot, and its deficiencies in lot area and width do not per se prevent the lot from being built upon lawfully. Zoning Ordinance $\S$ 5.21.1.

Any building constructed on the lot is still subject to the other dimensional requirements imposed by the Zoning Ordinance, however, including the maximum floor area ratio of 0.5 and the minimum side yard requirement of 7 feet 6 inches. Zoning Ordinance $\S \S$ 5.21.1 and 5.31 and Table 5-1. These two dimensions are directly related to the lot's pre-existing nonconforming lot area and width deficiencies. And it is with respect to
these two dimensional requirements--FAR and side yard--that we are seeking approval for minimal variance from the standard requirements.

Because the lot area itself is less than the prescribed 5,000 square foot minimum, the project's floor area ratio is 0.52 rather than the prescribed maximum of 0.5 . The gross floor area of the proposed house is 2,475 square feet. If the lot were in fact 5,000 square feet, the design would be well within the maximum FAR. As it is, it is only 97 square feet more than would be necessary to meet the FAR requirement exactly.

The other variances we are seeking, for minimal intrusions into the required 7 feet 6 inch side yards, are directly related to the lot's pre-existing nonconforming deficiency in lot width.

The design provides a small canopy above the basement level entrance on the north (left) side of the building. The canopy is designed to be 3 feet wide and extend 3 feet into the required side yard. If the lot were in fact 50 feet wide (as required) rather than 41 feet wide, the canopy would be well within the buildable lot area and would not extend at all into the side yard. Ranjit Sangayagama has said the canopy might also be considered to be a "projection" permitted to extend into the side yard under Zoning Ordinance § 5.24.2: "Projecting eaves, chimneys, bay windows, balconies, open fire escapes and like projections which do not project more than three and one-half ( $31 / 2$ ) feet and which are part of a building not more than thirty-five (35) feet in height . . . may extend beyond the minimum yard regulations otherwise provided for the district in which the structure is built." This interpretation is reasonable, but to be cautious and complete, we have nevertheless applied for a variance for the canopy.

Like the canopy, the second floor bedroom's projection from the exterior wall just 1 foot 9 inches into the side yard setback on the south (right) side of the building should also fit within the scope of $\S 5.24 .2$ of the Zoning Ordinance. The bedroom's projection is akin to a bay. Like the other projections covered by $\S 5.24 .2$, the bedroom projection is not an extension occupying the full height of the building from ground to roof, but rather a projection just 8 feet tall and only on the second floor of the building. And like the other extensions into the side yard setback, the bedroom projection would be well within the prescribed setbacks, if the lot met the 50 foot minimum width requirement.

The design's other intrusion into the side yards is a mere 4 inches, to accommodate exterior insulation on the basement level. Again, if the lot were the required 50 feet wide, the insulation would be well within the buildable lot area and would not extend at all into the side yards. It is worth noting that the Zoning Ordinance excludes space used for exterior insulation from the calculation of gross floor area. Zoning Ordinance § 22.43.1. Although the Ordinance does not also expressly exempt exterior insulation from the minimum side yard requirement for new construction, it does so for existing buildings under Zoning Ordinance § 5.24.2.1. Granting a variance for the exterior insulation's minimal intrusion into the side yards in this case would serve the stated purpose of the Zoning Ordinance: "The purpose of this Section is to remove potential impediments to the construction of exterior walls with additional insulation or wall-based mechanical systems that can improve the energy-efficiency of a building." Zoning Ordinance § 22.41.

## C) DESIRABLE RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED WITHOUT EITHER:

Desirable relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good for the following reasons:

The proposed design will not be detrimental to the public good; it will in fact be a significant improvement to the neighborhood. The design will replace a small, one story house of no historical or architectural significance with an attractive new home and gardens of modern, innovative design. The project will contribute to Cambridge's commitment to the environment by replacing an older energy inefficient building with a new sustainable, energy efficient, modern green building. The project includes a plan of French drains and a cistern to collect rainwater, which will relieve the neighborhood of difficulties it has had with downhill runoff and basement flooding. The design includes substantially more than the required amount of open space, which will be attractively planted and add beauty to the neighborhood. Joan's new home will not only improve the value of the 10 Hazel Street property, but will also conserve and likely increase the value of neighboring properties.

Desirable relief may be granted without nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent or purpose of this Ordinance for the following reasons:

The new single family dwelling design will not increase density of development in the neighborhood, nor will it increase traffic. The Zoning Ordinance permits a two-family dwelling in this district, but the new building will house only a single family dwelling. The design provides for parking in the basement level garage, eliminating the need for onstreet parking. The newly designed building will be substantially more energy efficient than the building it will replace, and it will not generate additional noise from heat pump condensers, pumps, fans and furnaces that could disrupt neighbors. The new home will be consistent in scale and front setback with the rest of the neighborhood, and the slight intrusion into the required side yard setback is not incompatible with the neighboring properties, many of which do not meet minimum side yard requirements. The substantial amount of open space will be attractively planted with trees and gardens, adding beauty to the neighborhood.

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## DIMENSIONALINFORMATION

| Applicant: | Joan Wheelis |
| :--- | :--- |
| Location: | 10 Hazel St, Cambridge, MA |
| Phone: | $617-694-5056$ |

Present Use/Occupancy: single family dwelling
Zone: Residence B Zone
Requested Use/Occupancy: single family dwelling

|  |  | Existing Conditions | Requested Conditions | Ordinance Requirements |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA: |  | 956 | 2475 | 2378 | (max.) |
| LOT AREA: |  | 4756 | 4756 | 5000 | (min.) |
| RATIO OF GROSS FLOOR AREA TO LOT AREA: ${ }^{2}$ |  | 0.2 | 0.52 | 0.5 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { LOT AREA OF EACH } \\ & \text { DWELLING UNIT } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  | 4756 | 4756 | 2500 |  |
| SIZE OF LOT: | WIDTH | 41 | 41 | 50 |  |
|  | DEPTH | 116 | 116 | n/a |  |
| SETBACKS IN FEET: | FRONT | 22.9 | 15 | 15 |  |
|  | REAR | 46.1 | 25.5 | 25 |  |
|  | LEFT SIDE | 7.7 | 7.5 (2 minor projections , $4^{\prime \prime}$ and $3^{\prime}$, into setback) | 7.5 |  |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { RIGHT } \\ & \text { SIDE } \end{aligned}$ | 8.7 | 7.5 (2 minor projections, 4" and 1'9" into setback) | 7.5 |  |
| SIZE OF BUILDING: | HEIGHT | 17 | 35 | 35 |  |
|  | WIDTH | n/a | n/a | n/a |  |
| RATIO OF USABLE <br> OPEN SPACE TO LOT <br> AREA: |  | 67.91 | 56.24 | 40 |  |
| NO. OF DWELLING UNITS: |  | 1 | 1 | 1-2 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { NO. OF PARKING } \\ & \hline \text { SPACES: } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  | n/a | 0 | n/a |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { NO. OF LOADING } \\ & \text { AREAS: } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  | n/a | n/a | n/a |  |
| DISTANCE TO NEAREST <br> BLDG. ON SAMELOT |  | n/a | n/a | n/a |  |

Describe where applicable, other occupancies on the same lot, the size of adjacent buildings on same lot, and type of construction proposed, e.g; wood frame, concrete, brick, steel, etc.:

Concrete foundation, wood frame construction, metal roof with solar panels. Only one building on lot.

1. SEE CAMBRIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE 5.000, SECTION 5.30 (DISTRICT OF DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS).
2. TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA (INCLUDING BASEMENT $7^{\prime}-0^{\prime \prime}$ IN HEIGHT AND ATTIC AREAS GREATER THAN 5') DIVIDED BY LOT AREA.
3. OPEN SPACE SHALL NOT INCLUDE PARKING AREAS, WALKWAYS OR DRIVEWAYS AND SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM DIMENSION OF 15'.


## Joan Wheelis Residence

10 Hazel Street, Cambridge, MA 02474
OWNER:

## Joan Wheelis

## ARCHITECT:

nkStone Architects, LLC 8 Main Street, 3b
Concord, MA 017
Brigitte Steines
$650-814-8542$
brigitte@inkstonearchitects.com

Variance Application
Issued 04/13/2022
Updated 04/29/2022
Index Sheet
Single Residence - New Construction

T1 Title Sheet
A0 Site Plan
EX1 Existing Site Plan and Building
EX2 Neighbors
R1 FAR Analysis
R2 Open Space Diagram and Calculations - Proposed
R3 Open Space Diagram and Calculations - Existing
A1 Basement Floor Plan
A2 First Floor Plan
A3 Loft Floor Plan
A4 Second Floor Plan
A5 East and West Elevation
A6 South Elevatio
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10 HAZEL－EXISTING HOUSE


EXISTING FRONT FACADE


EXISTING REAR FACADE


(2) Loft Floor Plan

(3) Second Floor Pla

First Floor Area
Lirst floor Area
Loft Cloor Area.
Seond Floor Area
total AREA:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 1,502 \text { sq.f.t. } \\
& 353 \text { ch cat }
\end{aligned}
$$ 353

620
sq.ft.
sq.ft

The max. allowable floor area for 10 Hazel Street is 2,378 sf

The lot of 10 Hazel Street is located in District B ARTICLE 5.000 - Development Standards 5.3 District Dimensional Regulations

|  | Required | Existing | Proposed | Comment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Max. Floor Area to Lot Area | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.52 |  |
| Minimum Lot Size | 5,000 sf | 4,756 | 4,756 | non-conforming lot |
| Minimum Lot <br> Area for ea. DU | 2,500 sf | 4,756 | 4,756 |  |
| Minimum Lot Width | 50 ft . | 41ft | 41 | non-conforming lot |
| Minimum Front Setback | 15 ft | 22.9 ft. | 15'0" |  |
| Minimum Side Setback | 7.5 ft . | 8.7' $\% 7.7^{\prime}$ | $7^{7-66^{\prime \prime}}$ |  |
| Minimum Rear Setback | 25 ft . | 46.1 ft | 26-2" | to line of exterior insulation of Basement wall |
| Max. height | 35 ft . | 17 ft | 35 ft . |  |
| Minimum Ratio <br> Private Open <br> Space to Lot <br> Area | 40\% | 67.89\% | 56.3\% |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

## Neighborhood Comparison

|  | Property <br> class | Land <br> area | \# of <br> stories | Gross <br> Floor <br> Area | FAR |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 10 Hazel Street <br> existing | single <br> fam-res | 4,756 | 1 | 956 | 0.2 |
| 10 Hazel Street <br> proposed | single <br> fam-res | 4,756 | 2 | 2,457 | 0.52 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16-18 Hazel <br> Street, Unit 16 | condo | 5,116 | 2 | 1347 | 0.5 |
| 16-18 Hazel <br> Street, Unit 18 | condo | 5,116 | 2 | 1300 | 0.5 |
| 339 Concord <br> Ave | 2-fam-res | 5,315 | 2.5 | 2,675 | 0.5 |
| 187 <br> Fayerweather <br> Street, Unit 1 | condo | 3,780 | 1 | 1,096 | 0.9 |
| 187 <br> Fayerweather <br> Street, Unit 2 | condo | 3,780 | 1 | 1,079 | 0.9 |
| 187 <br> Fayerweather <br> Street, Unit 3 | condo | 3,780 | 1 | 1,165 | 0.9 |
| 154 <br> Fayerweather <br> Street | 2 -fam-res | 4,999 | 2.5 | 3,324 | 0.66 |
| 218 Garden <br> Street | single <br> fam-res | 3570 | 2.5 | 2366 | 0.66 |

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OTAL Lor AREA:4,75 sq,.t.
ToTaL LOT AREA:4,75 sq.,
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ToTAL OPEN SPACE: 2,875 sq,ft
```



| ZONING dimensional analysis |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Zoning District: Res. B | Map / Lot: 262-31 |  |  |
|  | BzO At.V Table 5.01 | Actual |  |
| Min. Lot Size | 5,000 sf | 4,756 sf |  |
| Min. Lot Widh | 50 ft | 41 t |  |
| FAR . 5 for first 5000 sf and. 35 for additional area above 5000 sff $2,378 \mathrm{sf}$ f Alowable GFA |  |  |  |
|  | Allowale | Proposed | Ordinance Reference |
| GFA | 2,378 sf | 2.47 sf | Table 5-1 |
| \# of Units | 1 | 1 | Table 4.30 |
| Front Yard Setack | 15 t | 15 t | Table |
| Side Yard Setback - North | 7.5 tsum of 20 | 7.5 t | Table 5 -1 |
| Bide Yard Selback- South | 7.54tsum of 20 | 7.54 | Table 5-1 |
| Rear Yard Selback | 25 tt | 25.5t | Table 5-1 |
| Maximum Height | 35 ft | 26.27 t | Table $5-1$ |
| Off Stret Pakking | 1 per D.U. | 1 | Table 6.36.1 |
| Min. Ratio of Private Open Space | 40\% min of Lot Area | 56.3\% | Table 5 -1 |
| Private Open Space Area | 1,903 ft | 2.675 tt | Table 5-1 |
| Permeable Open Space | 952 t | 2.078 ft | 5.22 .3 |
| Private Open Space Compliant $\left(15^{\prime} \times 15^{\prime}\right)$ (15’x15') |  | 760 sf | 5.22 .1 |
| PROJECT AREAS PROPOSED |  |  |  |
| BASEMENT GFA (excluded) FIRST FLOOR GFA LOFT AREA SECON FL SEO TOTAL GFA |  |  |  |

##  <br> 



$\frac{\text { Existing Open Space Calculations }}{\text { Scale } 112^{\prime \prime}=10^{\prime \prime}}$

$\frac{\text { Basement Floor Plan }}{\text { Scale: } 1 / 4^{\prime \prime}=1-0^{\prime \prime}}$


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Loft Floor Plan Propose
Loft Floor Plan Propose ..... aseaser
Variance Application
42922
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BY U.S. MAIL to the address below OR
BY EMAIL to: mpacheco@cambridgema.gov
Board of Zoning Appeal
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
Re: 10 Hazel Street, Cambridge Variance application by Joan Wheelis

Dear Board of Zoning Appeal,
I am a neighbor of Joan Wheelis and 10 Hazel Street in Cambridge.
I have had an opportunity to review Joan's plans to demolish the existing house on the property and to build a new house in its place, which Joan intends to make her home.

I understand that, because the lot itself is somewhat smaller and narrower than the standard, the plans will require the Board of Zoning Appeals to grant variances:

- to exceed the maximum floor area ratio by about $0.2 \%$ ( $97 \mathrm{sq} . \mathrm{ft}$ );
- to install exterior insulation that will extend 4 inches into the side yards;
- to build a 3 foot wide canopy that will extend 3 feet into the left side yard; and
- for the second floor bedroom to project about $1^{\prime} 9^{\prime \prime}$ from the facade on the right side of the building.

I have no objection to the Board granting these variances, and I support Joan's plans for her new home.

Date: $4 / 14 / 2022$

$$
\frac{\text { Minke Ristivojemie }}{\text { (signature) }}
$$

Address: 15 HAZEL STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
cc: Joan Wheelis: 1WheelisMp@gmail.com

BY U.S. MAIL to the address below OR BY EMAIL to: mpacheco@cambridgemagoy

Board of Zoning Appeal

## 831 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, MA 02139

## Re: 10 Hazel Street, Cambridge

> Variance application by Joan Wheelis

Dear Board of Zoning Appeal,
I am a neighbor of Joan Wheelis and 10 Hazel Street in Cambridge.
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I understand that, because the lot itself is somewhat smaller and narrower than the standard, the plans will require the Board of Zoning Appeals to grant variances:

- to exceed the maximum floor area ratio by about $0.2 \%$ ( 85 sq . ft.);
- to install exterior insulation that will extend 4 inches into the side yards;
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- for the second floor bedroom to project about $1^{\prime} 9^{\prime \prime}$ from the facade on the right side of the building.
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Date: 411212122


BY U.S. MAIL to the address below OR
BY EMAIL to: mpacheco@cambridgema.oov
Board of Zoning Appeal
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
Re: 10 Hazel Street, Cambridge
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Date: $-1-10-21$ $\frac{\text { Pence of A A Own }}{\text { (signature) }}$

Address: 18 Hazel St

BY U.S. MAIL to the address below OR
BY EMAIL to: mpacheco@cambridgema.oov
Board of Zoning Appeal
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
Re: 10 Hazel Street, Cambridge
Variance application by Joan Wheelis
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cc: Joan wheells: Jwheelispormamall.com

BY U.S. MAIL to the address below OR
BY EMALL to: mpacheco(0.cambridgema.gov
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Cambridge, MA 02139
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Date: 4118122


Address: 210 Garder St, Cambridge, ma 02138
cc: Joan Wheelis: JwheellsMD@gmail.com

BY U.S. MAIL to the address below OR
BY EMAIL. to: mpacheco@cambridgema.goy

## Board of Zoning Appeal

831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

## Re: 10 Hazel Street, Cambridge

 Variance application by Joan WheelisDear Board of Zoning Appeal,
I am a neighbor of Joan Wheelis and 10 Hazel Street in Cambridge.
I have had an opportunity to review Joan's plans to demolish the existing house on the property and to build a new house in its place, which Joan intends to make her home.

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- to exceed the maximum floor area ratio by about $0.2 \%$ ( $97 \mathrm{sq} . \mathrm{ft}$ );
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- for the second floor bedroom to project about $1^{\prime} 9^{\prime \prime}$ from the facade on the right side of the building.

I have no objection to the Board granting these variances, and I support Joan's plans for her new home.

## Date: fine 4120


address: 181 Fayerweater St. Cambridge MA 02138
cc: Joan Wheefis: JWheelisMD@gmailcom

By U.S. MAIL to the address below OR
BY EMAIL to: mpacheconcambridgemagoy
Board of Zoning Appeal
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Cambridge, MA 02139
Re: 10 Hazel Street, Cambridge
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Date: $-4 / 20 / 22$


Address:

cc: Joan Wheelis: JWheelismpogmall.com

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## BY U.S. MAIL to the address below OR

BY EMAIL to: mpacheco@cambridgema.goy

## Board of Zoning Appeal <br> 831 Massachusetts Avenue <br> Cambridge, MA 02139

## Re: 10 Hazel Street, Cambridge

Variance application by Joan Wheels

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Date:



Address: 214 Gander st Conlngr Ma 02138

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Date:


Address:

cc: Joan Wheels: JWheelisMD(@gmail.com

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cc. Joan Wheelis: 3 WheelisMD@gmail.com

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Date:


Address: 172 fagerwather 85. \#3
cc: Joan Wheelis: JWheellsMD(cugmall.com


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Address: 21 FLELD ST. CAMMMDGE $O 2138$
cc: Joan wheelis: JwheellsMD(a)gmall.com

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Date: 5/22/22

(signature)
Address: 197 Fayerweather St. unit 2, Cambridge HA O2138
cc: Joan Wheelis: JWheelisMD@gmail.com

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cc: Joan Wheelis: JWheelisMD@gmail.com

# City of Cambridge 

Massachusetts
BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL
831 Mass Avenue, Cambridge, MA.

## BRA <br> POSTING NOTICE - PICK UP SHEET

The undersigned picked up the notice board for the Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing.

Name: RAQUEL DARGENio $\quad$ (Print) Date: OS |23|22 Address: $\qquad$ .

Case No. © 1 A. 170726

Hearing Date: $\qquad$

Thank you,
Baa Members


March 21-7am


June 21-7am


Dec 21-10am


June 21-10am

## Request for Extension of Variance

July 20， 2023

Project： 10 Hazel Street，BZA－170726

## Maria－

We are requesting the extension of the Variance for 10 Hazel Street which expires on August 5 ．There was no extension filed before．

```
Thank you,
Brigitte Steines
Brigitte Steines, AIA LEED AP
Principal
InkStone Architects, LLC
18 Main Street
Concord, MA 01742
650.814 8542
inkstonearchitects.com
```

(8:50 p.m.)
Sitting Members: Brendan Sullivan, Jim Monteverde, Andrea Hickey, Jason Marshall, and Matina Williams

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Thank you. The Board will hear Case No. 170726 -- 10 Hazel Street.
[Pause]
10 Hazel Street?
DEBORAH FAWCETT: Oh, there I am up on the upper left.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Hi.
DEBORAH FAWCETT: Good evening. My name is
Deborah Fawcett. I'm the attorney representing the owner of the property in question, Joan Wheelis. Joan's also participating in this Zoom hearing, as is Brigitte Steins, who's the architect for the project.

Joan has lived in Cambridge a long time, and has lived and worked in this particular neighborhood since 1989. She's owned 10 Hazel Street for since 2011, and she is currently renting at a tenant's. She lives two doors down around the corner at 218 Garden Street.

10 Hazel Street is a small, one-story house. It has 956 square feet of living space. It was built in 1961, but the Historic Commission has determined that it doesn't meet their criteria requiring a hearing.

I'm here before you now because at this point in her life, Joan wants a house that has some features at 218 Garden Street does not. Like many of us -- certainly myself -- Joan has problems with sore knees, and she wants an elevator in the house. She also doesn't want to struggle to shovel snow off her car anymore, because she parks on the street.

She is a psychotherapist and wants to have space in the house to continue that practice, which of course is a home occupation permitted as-of-right.

She wants to have ample space for overnight guests, and in particular to accommodate comfortably her son, who she anticipates may come to live with her and to and to help her out as time goes on.

Joan tells me that this part of Garden Street is sometimes called, "Great Swamp Way" because there's a lot of runoff coming downhill. And she's experienced basement flooding as a result and some related problems. And she
doesn't want to experience that anymore, either.
Maybe most importantly, Joan really appreciates the existential threat that climate change poses to all of us. And she wants to have a sustainable, energy efficient home that's as green as she can reasonably afford.

So the proposed design accomplishes all of these objectives. And there are many elements to make the house great, including triple-pane windows, green building materials and finishes, shading to prevent overheating.

It's designed to follow the sun, providing natural daylight to indoor rooms, roof and wall insulation that will exceed code requirements.

She also wants to put exterior insulation at the basement of the house, and it's going to be a combination of geothermal and solar energy with heat pumps that will be energy-efficient, but will not make a lot of noise to disturb neighbors.

Unfortunately, it's not feasible to convert -- to make this happen in 10 Hazel Street. It's just too small, ceilings are too low and so forth. So Joan and her architect examined the building carefully, and they just decided that that was not feasible.

This lot, like others in the immediate neighborhood, which were laid out in plan I think 1911 is preexisting, nonconforming. The lot size is 4756 square feet, which is somewhat less than the required minimum of 5000. And it's 41 feet wide, as opposed to 50 , which is the requirement.

And it's because of these deficiencies in area and width of the lot that we're here asking for some minimal, we think, variances from the requirements.

The floor area ratio, the requirement is 0.5 . We are -- the design includes 97 square feet more than the maximum would be allowed because of the lot being unciersized. So the floor area ratio we would end up with is 0.52. Then there are two small intrusions into the side yards, the small canopy on the north or left side of the building if you're standing in the street, which would be three feet by three feet.

And on the other side on the right side or south side of the property, we would like to include a small kind of bump out, a bay-like projection on the second floor only of the bedroom. And that would project one foot nine inches into that side yard on the right side.

Both of those arguably fall within the provision of Section 5.24.2, which $I$ will just quote, "projecting eves, chimneys, bay windows, balconies, open fire escapes, and light projections, which do not project more than three and a half feet --" which these would not, "-- and are part of a larger building no more than 35 feet high. This is going to be the maximum, 35, but not over. May extend into the minimum yard requirements."

When we met with Ranjit, or I spoke with him, he was -- he suggested that these projections might fall within that provision, which would exempt us from the requirement of -- I mean we wouldn't need a variance, because the intrusions would be okay. But we wanted to be cautious and conservative, and that's why we're asking for variances for those two projections as well.

Finally, we're hoping to get a variance to intrude into the both side yards four inches at the basement level to accommodate the application of exterior insulation, which there's a provision in the ordinance that would allow this if it were an existing building, but not for a new one. But it does serve the purpose quoted in Section 2241 of the ordinance to remove potential impediments to the
construction of exterior walls with additional insulation.
So that's our proposal. I'm happy to answer any questions. I think that, as I say, the building was not deemed architecturally or historically significant enough to warrant protection by the Historical Commission.

This new building would contribute to the City's commitment to protecting the environment. It would be a much more energy-efficient and sustainable building.

A new system for collecting rainwater should diminish the downhill runoff. Hazel Street runs downhill from Fayerweather to Garden, and there would be substantially more open space than is required.

And Joan is an avid and skilled gardener, and I'm sure will do a beautiful job making this property lovely. And I think it would, far from being a detriment, I think it will substantially enhance and probably improve the value of the neighboring properties, as well as 10 Hazel Street.

It won't increase density of development or traffic. It will be more energy efficient, and as I said before, will not generate noise. It's in a scale of the front setback is completely consistent with the surrounding neighborhood.

As I said, many of these lots were laid out before the Zoning Ordinance was adopted, and there are a lot of houses in the neighborhood who don't have much of a side yard at all.

I think -- oh, I also wanted to let you know that Joan has spoken with and shared her plans with as many people as she could contact in the neighborhood, and I think there have been 15 letters of support that were submitted along with her application. And that includes the two properties on either side, the immediately abutting properties as well as some properties across the street.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: All right. Good. Thanks. Okay.

DEBORAH FAWCETT: Thank you.
BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Let me open it up to members of the Board. Jim Monteverde, any questions at this time?

JIM MONTEVERDE: No questions, thank you.
BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jason Marshall, any questions?
JASON MARSHALL: No questions at this time, thank you.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Andrea?
ANDREA HICKEY: Yes. I am having a bit of a hard
time sort of following the plan to compare the current structure with what's proposed. Could I ask someone on the presenter's side to bring us to one of the slides that will clearly show sort of existing versus proposed?

DEBORAH FAWCETT: Actually, if you bring up slide 17, that shows the Dimensional Table.

ANDREA HICKEY: Right. I have that. So I'm looking for something like a plot plan.

DEBORAH FAWCETT: Oh, sure.
ANDREA HICKEY: I'm not an architect, so I'm trying to just visualize --

DEBORAH FAWCETT: Sorry.
ANDREA HICKEY: What is the footprint now, versus what is it -- what are you proposing in terms of the massing on the lot? So --

DEBORAH FAWCETT: This is the plot plan that shows the existing --

ANDREA HICKEY: Correct.
DEBORAH FAWCETT: -- conditions.
ANDREA HICKEY: Right. I understand that.
DEBORAH FAWCETT: Okay. And if you go down to
Slide 5 would probably be helpful. This is the floor area
ratio analysis.
And I think if you -- over on the right side, Olivia, you can see a neighborhood comparison. The firstfloor plan, which is in slide 10 , shows the canopy that we're talking about.

And the -- and the purpose of that is to protect people -- patients, although Joan doesn't have many patients coming to her home office at this point, I think a lot of it is over the phone at this point, but for those who do come, the canopy would protect them from rain while they're waiting to come in. And it's --

JIM MONTEVERDE: Can I make -- sorry, this is Jim Monteverde. Can I make one suggestion that might answer the question that was asked?

DEBORAH FAWCETT: Yes.
JIM MONTEVERDE: If you would go to -- what sheet am I on, I'm on Sheet 16, I believe, it shows that there's a photograph of the existing condition. No, wrong sheet, sorry.

DEBORAH FAWCETT: No, that's not it. JIM MONTEVERDE: I'm on the one that has the survey, and it has the photograph, front, and rear of the
current building.
DEBORAH FAWCETT: Oh.
ANDREA HICKEY: Jim, what page of the --
DEBORAH FAWCETT: On page --
ANDREA HICKEY: -- PDF, is that --
DEBORAH FAWCETT: Slide 3.
JIM MONTEVERDE: This one.

DEBORAH FAWCETT: This is -- again, these are existing conditions. But these are some photos of 10 Hazel Street now.

JIM MONTEVERDE: Agree. Yeah. So --
DEBORAH FAWCETT: Right?
JIM MONTEVERDE: -- that gives you a sense -Andrea, that gives you a sense of what it's like, you know, from the street?

ANDREA HICKEY: Right. I --
JIM MONTEVERDE: Right?
ANDREA HICKEY: -- 100 percent have that. I'm looking --

JIM MONTEVERDE: Yeah.
ANDREA HICKEY: -- for something that -- I'm looking for something just that simple for what's proposed.

JIM MONTEVERDE: Right.
DEBORAH FAWCETT: Okay.
JIM MONTEVERDE: Well, if you --

BRIGITTE STEINS: May --
JIM MONTEVERDE: -- if you go to the next slide --
BRIGITTE STEINS: May I introduce myself? My name is Brigitte Steines, InkStone Architects. So I'm the architect here. And we produced the drawings, so maybe I can help out here.

So I think the best -- the best slide to go to to compare besides the images and seeing the open space is also the R2 drawing, which is I believe the third one on your --

ANDREA HICKEY: I think it's Slide 6.
BRIGITTE STEINES: Or Slide 6. Yeah, the slides are different. So this gives a very good overview of what is -- if you're looking for that?

ANDREA HICKEY: Yeah. I'm looking for sort of what exists versus what is proposed.

BRIGITTE STEINES: Right. So --
ANDREA HICKEY: How the structure lies on the lot.
BRIGITTE STEINES: Of course. So there are two ways to compare it. One is the footprint, and if you
compare it with the existing plot plan, then you can see that our footprint got bigger. If you look at the open space, there is still a whole lot of more open space than other buildings in the neighborhood.

The other way to compare it is the floor area. And then there is -- there the floor plan is probably more helpful --

DEBORAH FAWCETT: Slide 5.
BRIGITTE STEINES: -- than the plot plan. But maybe the R 2 plan we are looking at right now is not easy to read, so maybe I can walk you through that, what the footprint means.

I don't know, Olivia, if you can make the -- we can see the full picture? At least in cannot, or can $I$ see that, really? Maybe a little smaller. Thank you so much.

So if you move it -- this is the back. Let's start from the back side, since we see -- okay. So now that's the front side. So on the right side you're going to see Hazel Street with a driveway very similar to what it is right now.

The first block rectangle where it says, "roof terrace" is a one -- is a single-story structure. There is
a courtyard which is open. It's on grade of level. And then everything that is gray is more two and a half stories high.

Then if you can move the plan going more to the right, the roof terrace is not as high as the roof, so it's about two stories high, and in the back is the wood deck.

So this is the footprint area, and on the top of that where it says, "Window wells" these are window wells coming out of the basement -- one out of a bedroom, and one out of an office area. I don't know if that helped, that explanation. If you were looking for the footprint?

ANDREA HICKEY: Yeah. Sometimes we see plans that are on -- one plan will show the proposed and like a hashed line for the existing, just to make it easy for those of us who are not experts --

BRIGITTE STEINES: Yeah.
ANDREA HICKEY: -- at reading a plan --
JIM MONTEVERDE: Yeah. --
ANDREA HICKEY: -- to kind of visualize.

JIM MONTEVERDE: I think --
ANDREA HICKEY: I'm sorry, Jim.
JIM MONTEVERDE: Yeah, I'm sorry.

ANDREA HICKEY: Go ahead.
JIM MONTEVERDE: I think there is one on Sheet T1 the neighborhood plan.

BRIGITTE STEINES: Yes, the T1. It's very small. JIM MONTEVERDE: Well, if you blow that up -BRIGITTE STEINES: Sorry, can I interrupt you? JIM MONTEVERDE: No, that's okay. BRIGITTE STEINES: Yeah.

JIM MONTEVERDE: Blow that up when you get there. BRIGITTE STEINES: On the very top, it's very small, but it's the high-level comparison. It's the T1 on the very beginning, the very first --

DEBORAH FAWCETT: I think it might be Slide 2, Olivia.

BRIGITTE STEINES: Or maybe it's two. But verify. Yes.

JIM MONTEVERDE: There we go. Yep.
BRIGITTE STEINES: This one. If you can zoom into that plot plan exactly there where you are?

JIM MONTEVERDE: Right.
BRIGITTE STEINES: Exactly.
JIM MONTEVERDE: So --

BRIGITTE STEINES: So --
JIM MONTEVERDE: If you see that ghosted in
rectangle?
ANDREA HICKEY: Yes.
JIM MONTEVERDE: That, I believe, is the existing. BRIGITTE STEINES: This is correct.

JIM MONTEVERDE: And the balance in -- brown? I'm color blind.

BRIGITTE STEINES: Correct.
JIM MONTEVERDE: But --

ANDREA HICKEY: Yes.
JIM MONTEVERDE: -- is the proposed. How's that?
ANDREA HICKEY: That's good. It was buried in there, unfortunately. JIM MONTEVERDE: Yeah.

BRIGITTE STEINES: It was really small; I have to admit.

DEBORAH FAWCETT: Sorry.
ANDREA HICKEY: All right. My only other question -- again, not being an architect -- so you're presenting that the height of the building as proposed will not be higher than 35 feet, correct?

BRIGITTE STEINES: This is correct.
ANDREA HICKEY: And what is the lowest point from which you're measuring that 35 feet?

BRIGITTE STEINES: We are measuring from the existing grade. So what we did, Deborah and I, to be really sure that we are doing the right thing, we actually met in person with Ranjit, and also had a couple of phone conversations.

So we took the existing average grade, what we got from the certified surveyor, and measured from there the 35 feet up. And I think to see that best is going to the elevation and to the front elevation, which is Sheet A --

DEBORAH FAWCETT: Slides 13 --
BRIGITTE STEINES: Down, down --
DEBORAH FAWCETT: -- and 15 --
BRIGITTE STEINES: -- down, down. Yes.
DEBORAH FAWCETT: How about the --
BRIGITTE STEINES: This one looks good. Yes. So there you see a green line. And that says, "existing average grade." Can you see that?

ANDREA HICKEY: I do see that.
BRIGITTE STEINES: Yes.

ANDREA HICKEY: So I'll ask my colleague, Mr. Monteverde or anybody who might know the answer to this question, is the existing average grade the proper place from which to measure height, or wouldn't it be the lowest point, like, the lower part of a window well or the lower part of the --

BRIGITTE STEINES: This -- yeah.
DEBORAH FAWCETT: -- specifically --
BRIGITCE STEINES: Let me -- let me add that. So the way we were got that explained, we did include the window wells. So the window well depression is included. The driveway is considered as an exception.

So where we are looking at at the front elevation, this is measured from the average existing grade, while if we would go to the next elevation to the next sheet where we see the window wells, you will see there is a green line there as well.

But you see the numbers?
DEBORAH FAWCETT: Mm-hm.
BRIGITTE STEINES: 1,2,3,4, and the number 23 and 4 are measuring, and you can see the -- you can see the measurement in pink. And it's counted from the very bottom
of the window well up to the roof area.
ANDREA HICKEY: So the distance from the bottom of the window well to the roof is --

BRIGITTE STEINES: 34.10 at that side of the roof.
ANDREA HICKEY: Understood. Thank you very much. That's much clearer to me.

BRIGITTE STEINES: Okay.
ANDREA HICKEY: That's all I have.
BRIGITTE STEINES: It is very tricky, the height calculations.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Andrea, it's -- that's the way it's calculated by the department, anyhow. And it is the same calculations, the same way you figure people coming in for access and for window wells in basements.

And what triggers -- they may very well be at, say 34.9 or something now, they're adding window wells to allow for fenestration and exit from a basement bedroom -- and that window well basically increases the height, even though the building hasn't changed at all. So --

ANDREA HICKEY: Right. That was why I asked the question --

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yep.

ANDREA HICKEY: So I had a firm understanding as to whether --

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yeah.

ANDREA HICKEY: That window well situation was taken into consideration, and it looks like it's been addressed.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yes.

ANDREA HICKEY: It looks like the Building Department is fine with it, and I have no questions. I just wanted to understand that.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yes. It is -- that depth if you will, is calculated into the average grade around the house. So.

ANDREA HICKEY: I have nothing further. Thank you.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Matina, any questions, or comments at this time?

MATINA WILLIAMS: No.
BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Let me open it to public comment. Any members of the public who wish to speak should now click the button that says, "Participants," and then click the button that says, "Raise hand."

If you're calling in by phone, you can raise your hand by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6. And you'll have up to three minutes to comment.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Edwardo Berlin?
EDUARDO BERLIN: Yes. I'm sorry, this is probably not the right moment in this meeting to ask this. I just wanted to confirm that 241 Grove Street is off the agenda, because I have it on the agenda online, but I also have an e-mail from the owner saying that it's not. Just wanted to confirm that. I'm sorry for the intrusion.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: It is open?
OLIVIA RATAY: It was continued.

EDUARDO BERLIN: Can you hear me?
BRENDAN SULLIVAN: That was continued until June 30.

EDUARDO BERLIN: Thank you. That's all. Thanks so much.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Yep. There was nobody calling in. We are in receipt of correspondence. It's a form letter.
"Dear Board of Zoning Appeal, I am a neighbor of Joan Wheelis at 10 Hazel Street. I had an opportunity to
review Joan's plans to demolish the existing house on the property and to build a new house in its place, which Joan intends to make a home."
"I understand that because of the lot itself is somewhat smaller and narrower than the standard, the plans will require the Board of Zoning Appeal to grant variances to exceed the maximum floor area ratio by about 0.2 percent, 97 square feet, to install exterior installation that will extend four inches into the side yards to build three-foot wide canopy that will extend three feet into the left side yard and for the second-floor bedroom to project about one-foot-nine from the façade on the right side of the building.
"I have no objection to the Board granting these variances, and I support Joan's plans for her new home." There are some 16,17 that $I$ counted letters in support. And that is the sum and substance of any communication. I will close the public comment part. Deborah, any further comments at this time?

DEBORAH FAWCETT: No. I think it's all been said. I'm glad that you explained that it's -- the height is measured from the existing average grade, which definitely takes into account the window well.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Great. Okay, thank you. All right. I'll close the presentation part of the meeting, and by and the Board will discuss it among themselves. Jim Monteverde, your thoughts. We're being requested to grant a special variance.

JIM MONTEVERDE: I am fine with it. I'm comfortable.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Jason Marshall?
JASON MARSHALL: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't have any feedback at this time.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Andrea Hickey?
ANDREA HICKEY: No further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Matina Williams, any comments, or questions? Ready for a vote?

MATINA WILLIAMS: No comments or questions at this time.

BRENDAN SULLIVAN: All right. Let me make a motion, then, to grant the relief requested, as per the drawings, supporting statements and dimensional forms, drawings initialed by the Chair for the new construction, which exceeds the FAR and also there is some side yard
requirement setback violations.
The Board finds that a literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance would involve a substantial hardship to the petitioner, because it would preclude the petitioner from constructing a new building to replace an outdated, inefficient, very small, relatively small for the neighborhood, house on an existing lot.

The Board finds that the existing house predates the ordinance, is encumbered by it by the size of the lot, also the side yard requirements and also the FAR, so that any addition or modification or improvement to the house, which has to be an expansion of the house, would require some relief from this Board.

The Board finds that desirable relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good. The Board finds that the proposed new structure will have many economical and ecological benefits to the city, also to the occupant of the structure.

That the design will replace a very small, onestory house. And the Board finds that the Historical Department has found it of no historical architectural significance.

The Board finds that desirable relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good, or nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent and purpose of the ordinance -- the intent and purpose of the ordinance is to allow the petitioners, homeowners, to bring their residences up to far more efficient standards with today's modern technology.

The Board also notices the -- that there would not be any increase in traffic. There would not be any increase in the use of the property. It could be allowed to be a two-family; this will be a single-family home, so that the use and intensity will remain the same and have no impact on adjoining properties.

The Board finds that -- there should be some more findings -- desirable relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good. In fact, the proposed design will enhance the neighborhood with an attractive design and far more efficient structure.

The Board finds that desirable relief may be granted without nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent and purpose of the ordinance, as previously stated, to allow homeowners to improve their home to far
more energy efficiency, and also to make it more livable and accommodating to modern standards.

On the motion, then, to grant the relief
requested, Jim Monteverde?
JIM MONTEVERDE: I vote in favor.
BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Jason Marshall?
JASON MARSHALL: In favor.
BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Andrea Hickey?
ANDREA HICKEY: Yes, in favor.
BRENDAN SULLIVAN: Matina Williams?

MATINA WILLIAMS: Yes, in favor.
BRENDAN SULLIVAN: And Brendan Sullivan yes.
[All vote YES]
BRENDAN SULLIVAN: On the five affirmative votes, the variance is granted. Good luck.

COLLECTIVE: Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you very much.

CITTY OF CAMBRIDGE
Massachusetts
BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL
831 Mass Avenue, Cambridge, MA.
617) 349-6100

CASE NO: 170726
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { LOCATION: } & \begin{array}{l}10 \text { Hazel Street } \\ \text { Cambridge, MA }\end{array} \quad \text { Residence B Zone }\end{array}$

PETITIONER: Joan Wheelis - C/o Deborah P. Fawcett, Esq.

PETITION: Variance: New construction exceeding F.A.R. and projections into required side yard setbacks.

VIOLATIONS: Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.30 (Variance).

DATE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: May 26, 2022 \& June 2, 2022
DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING: June 9, 2022
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

> BRENDAN SULLIVAN - CHAIR
> JM MONTEVERDE - VICE-CHAIR
> CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER
> ANDREA A. HICKEY
> LAURA WERNICK


ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:
SLATER W. ANDERSON
ALISON HAMMER JASON MARSHALL MATINA WILLIAMS
WENDY LEISERSON


Members of the Board of Zoning Appeal heard testimony and viewed materials submitted regarding the above request for relief from the requirements of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance. The Board is familiar with the location of the petitioner's property, the layout, and other characteristics as well as the surrounding district.

Case No: BZA-170726
Location: 10 Hazel Street
Petitioner: Joan Wheelis - c/o Deborah P. Fawcett, Esq.

On June 9, 2022, Petitioner Joan Wheelis appeared before the Board of Zoning Appeal with her attorney Deborah Fawcett and her architect Brigitte Steins, InkStone Architects, requesting a variance in order to build new construction exceeding FAR and projecting into the required side yard setbacks. The Petitioner requested relief from Article 5, Section 5.31 and Article 10, Section 10.30 of the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance ("Ordinance"). The Petitioner submitted materials in support of the application including information about the project, plans, and photographs.

Attorney Fawcett stated that the property contained a small one-story house with 956 square feet of living space. She stated that the proposal was to replace the house with one of more livable dimensions. She stated that the existing house was determined to be not historic, and the proposed house would be energy efficient. She stated that the lot was undersized and narrow, creating FAR and side setback issues. She stated that modest FAR and setback variances were needed. She stated that the proposed structure would enhance the neighborhood.

The Chair asked if any members of the public wished to be heard on the matter, and no one wished to be heard. Neighbors submitted a form letter in favor of the proposal. The letter was read into the record.

After discussion, the Chair moved that the Board make the following findings based upon the application materials submitted and all evidence before the Board and that based upon the findings the Board grant the requested relief as described in the Petitioner's submitted materials and the evidence before the Board: that the Board find that a literal enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance would involve a substantial hardship to the petitioner, because it would preclude the petitioner from constructing a new building to replace an outdated, inefficient, relatively small house on an existing lot; that the Board find that the existing house predated the Ordinance and was encumbered by it, including lot size, side yard, and FAR requirements, so that any addition, modification or improvement to the house would require some relief from the Board; that the Board find that desirable relief could be granted without substantial detriment to the public good; that the Board find that the proposed new structure would have many economical and ecological benefits to the city and to the occupant of the structure; that the Board find that the design would replace a very small, one-story house, which the Historical Commission had found was not historically or architecturally significant; that the Board find that desirable relief could be granted without substantial detriment to the public good, or nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent and purpose of the Ordinance to allow homeowners to bring their residences up to far more efficient standards with today's modern technology; that the Board find that there would not be any increase in traffic, there would not be any increase in the use of the property, and it would remain a single family house so that the use and intensity would remain the same and have no impact on adjoining properties; that the Board find that the proposed design would enhance the neighborhood with an attractive design and a far more efficient structure; that the Board find that desirable relief could be granted without nullifying or
substantially derogating from the intent and purpose of the Ordinance to allow homeowners to improve their home to a far more energy efficient state, and also to make it more livable and accommodating to modern standards.

The Chair further moved that the Board specifically find that based upon all the information presented, there are circumstances involving a substantial hardship relating to this property within the meaning of M.G.L. c. 40A § 10 and that the Board grant the variance for the requested relief on the condition that the work be as per the application, supporting statements, dimensional form, and drawings submitted, as initialed by the Chair at the June 9, 2022 hearing.

The five-member Board voted unanimously in favor of the findings and of granting the variance as conditioned (Sullivan, Monteverde, Hickey, Williams, and Marshall). Therefore, the variance is granted as conditioned.

The Board of Zoning Appeal is empowered to waive local zoning regulations only. This decision therefore does not relieve the petitioner in any way from the duty to comply with local ordinances and regulations of the other local agencies, including, but not limited to the Historical Commission, License Commission and/or compliance with requirements pursuant to the Building Code and other applicable codes.


Attest: A true and correct copy of decision filed with the offices of the City Clerk and Planning Board on $8-5-22$ by


Twenty days have elapsed since the filing of this decision.

No appeal has been filed $\qquad$ .

Appeal has been filed and dismissed or denied.

Date: $\qquad$ City Clerk.

Southern Middlesex - 20/20 Perfect Vision i2 Document Detail Report
Current datetime: 5/11/2023 10:40:43 AM


CITY OF CAMBRIDGE Massachusetts BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL 831 Mass Avenue, Cambridge, MA. 617) 349-6100


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LOCATION: 10 Hazel Street
Residence B Zone Cambridge, MA

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DATE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: May 26, 2022 \& June 2, 2022


Bk: 01402 Pg: 81 Certझ: 249151
Doc: DECIS 09/07/2022 12:12 PM
DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING: June 9, 2022

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:
BRENDAN SULLIVAN - CHAIR
JM MONTEVERDE - VICE-CHAIR
CONSTANTINE ALEXANDER
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1402-81
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| Case No: | BZA-170726 |
| :--- | :--- |
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Twenty days have elapsed since the filing of this decision.

No appeal has been filed $\qquad$ .

Appeal has been filed and dismissed or denied.
Date: August 30,2022
 City Clerk.


## Memoranda Of Encumbrances

## Cert No: 249151

Book/Page: 01402/81

## Cert No 249151

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Kind MORTGAGE
In Favor of
Date of Instr 07/14/2011
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Date of Reg 07/14/2011
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Kind MORTGAGE
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Terms
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Document 1609815

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Document 1660512
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[^0]:    *If you have any questions as to whether you can establish all of the applicable legal requirements, you should consult with an attorney.

[^1]:    ce: Joan whicells: JyHhexiEsMDugamall. Erin

