## TOWN OF DEDHAM

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

**Members** James F. McGrail, Esq., Chair J. Gregory Jacobsen, Vice Chair Scott M. Steeves E. Patrick Maguire, MLA, RLA, CLARB, LEED AP® Jason L. Mammone, P.E.



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TOWN OF DEDHAM

APR 0 2 2018

A.M. TOWN P.M. CLERK

Associate Members Jared F. Nokes, J.D. Jessica L. Porter

## DECISION

Applicant/Owner

**Property Address Zoning District** 

Map and Lot

Representative

John Radley

15 Liberty Lane, Dedham, MA

Single Residence B

60/6

John Radley, owner

Legal Notice

To be allowed a one-and-a-half foot front yard setback instead of the required 25 feet to demolish a the front of a two-family dwelling and reconstruct a two-and-a-half story addition to the existing two-family dwelling.

Section of Zoning Bylaw

Town of Dedham Zoning Bylaw Section 4.1 Table of Dimen-

sional Requirements

**Date of Application** Date of Public Hearing

Date of Decision

Vote

**Voting Members** 

February 14, 2018

March 21, 2018 March 21, 2018

5-0, unanimously approved

James F. McGrail, Esq., J. Gregory Jacobsen, Scott M. Steeves, Jason L. Mammone, P.E., Jared F. Nokes, J.D.

Date Filed With Town Clerk April 2, 2018

The Zoning Board of Appeals ("ZBA") of the Town of Dedham, Massachusetts, held public hearings on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, in the Town Office Building, 26 Bryant Street, Dedham, Massachusetts. Present were members of the ZBA, James F. McGrail, Esq., Chair, J. Gregory Jacobsen, Vice Chair, Scott M. Steeves, and Jason L. Mammone, P.E. In the absence of Member E. Patrick Maguire, MLA, RLA, CLARB, LEED AP®, the Chair appointed Associate Member Jared F. Nokes, J.D., to sit in his stead.

The hearings for this meeting of the ZBA were duly advertised in *The Dedham Times* on March 2, 2018, and March 9, 2018, in accordance with the requirements of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40A, Section 11, and the Town of Dedham Zoning Bylaw. In addition, notices of the hearings were sent to abutters within 300 feet of the property in question on Notification of each hearing was sent to the abutting towns of Boston, Needham, Canton, and Westwood. Copies of all plans referred to in this decision and a detailed record of the Zoning Board of Appeals proceedings are filed in the Town of Dedham Planning Department.

The Applicant represented himself. The minutes from the hearing are the primary source of evidence and are incorporated herein by reference. The property is located at 15 Liberty Lane, Dedham, Massachusetts, and is located in the Single Residence B zoning district. Town of Dedham Zoning Bylaw Section 4.1 Table of Dimensional Requirements

On February 14, 2018, the Applicant submitted an application for a one-and-a-foot rear yard setback instead of the required 25 feet to demolish the front of an existing two-family dwelling and reconstruct a two-and-a-half story addition to the existing two-family dwelling. This included:

1. Zoning Board of Appeals application

- 2. Certified plot plan prepared by Rod D. Carter, PLS, 15 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568, dated April 5, 2004
- 3. Photograph of existing dwelling

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4. Rendering of proposed changes

5. Letter from the Conservation Commission agent, Elissa Brown, dated October 5, 2017, extending the Negative Determination of Applicability for three years

6. Town of Dedham Assessors Database file dated January 29, 2018

The subject property is known and numbered as 15 Liberty Lane, Dedham, Massachusetts, and is shown on Dedham Assessor's Map 60, Lot 6. The certified plot plan indicates that the Subject Property contains 53,784 square feet of land and has 87.33 feet of frontage on Liberty Lane. According to the Town of Dedham Zoning Map, the Subject Property is located in the Single Residence B zoning district. Currently, the property is occupied by a two-family dwelling. According to the records maintained by the Dedham Board of Assessors, the building was constructed in 1880.

The Town of Dedham Zoning Board of Appeals is authorized and empowered to grant requested relief under a number of provisions of the Town of Dedham Zoning Bylaw. Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 provide that the ZBA may grant Special Permits to change, alter, extend, or

reconstruct nonconforming uses and structures, respectively. Per said Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3, the ZBA "may award a Special Permit ... if it determines that [the proposed change, alteration, extension, or reconstruction] shall not be substantially more detrimental than the existing nonconforming [use or structure] to the neighborhood." Furthermore, with respect to nonconforming single and two-family residential structures, Section 3.3.5 of the Town of Dedham Zoning Bylaw provides, in pertinent part, that if "the nonconforming nature of such structure shall be increased by the proposed reconstruction, extension, alteration, or change, the Zoning Board of Appeals may, by Special Permit, allow such reconstruction, extension, alteration, or change where it determines the proposed modification will not be substantially more detrimental than the existing nonconforming structure to the neighborhood."

Special Permits shall be granted by the Town of Dedham Zoning Board of Appeals, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, unless otherwise specified herein, only upon its written determination that the adverse effects of the proposed use will not outweigh its beneficial impacts to the Town or the neighborhood, in view of the particular characteristics of the site, and of the proposal in relation to that site. In addition to any specific factors that may be set forth by this Bylaw, the determination shall include consideration of each of the following:

- 1. Social, economic, or community needs which are served by the proposal
- 2. Traffic flow and safety, including parking and loading
- 3. Adequacy of utilities and other public services
- 4. Neighborhood character and social structures
- 5. Impacts on the natural environment
- 6. Potential fiscal impact, including impact on Town services, tax base, and employment

In addition, pursuant to the authority granted under Section 9.2.2 of the Town of Dedham Zoning Bylaw, the ZBA has the power "to hear and decide appeals or petitions for variances from the terms of this Bylaw, with respect to particular land or structures as set forth in G.L. c. 40A, § 10." Section 10 of Chapter 40A of the General Laws of Massachusetts states that a variance may be granted if:

Owing to circumstances related to soil conditions, shape, or topography of such land or structures and especially affecting such land or structures but not affecting generally the zoning district in which it is located, a literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance

or bylaw would involve substantial hardship, financial or otherwise, to the petitioner or appellant and that desirable relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good and without nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent or purpose of such ordinance or bylaw.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the requirements and criteria for the issuance of the requested modification are satisfied.

Mr. Radley is seeking to be allowed a one-and-a-half foot front yard setback instead of the required 25 feet to demolish the front of an existing two-family dwelling, and to reconstruct a two-and-a-half story addition on a new 28' x 24' foundation. This addition will actually be 15 feet from the property line; there was a misunderstanding on the legal ad, as it was written as 1.5 feet, but Mr. McGrail said this is fine. Mr. Radley said this will reduce the footprint of the house and improve the aesthetics of the neighborhood. The addition will go straight up, and the empty space will be turned into a driveway.

Mr. Radley submitted signatures in support of his petition:

Maurice DeJean Mr. and Mrs. McBarnett (Mark and Yolanda) Christine Grey

11 Liberty Lane 8 Liberty Lane

9 Liberty Lane

No one in the audience spoke in favor or against the petition.

Upon motion duly made by Scott M. Steeves and seconded by J. Gregory Jacobsen, the ZBA voted unanimously, 5-0, to grant and approve such special permits and/or variances as required to be allowed a 15 foot front yard setback instead of the required 25 feet to demolish the front of an existing two-family dwelling and reconstruct a two-and-a-half story addition to the existing two-family dwelling.

In granting said Special Permit, the Zoning Board of Appeals finds that the proposed modification will not be substantially more detrimental than the existing nonconforming structure to the neighborhood. Furthermore, the Zoning Board of Appeals finds that, after consideration of the criteria in Section 9.3.2 of the Town of Dedham Zoning Bylaw, the adverse effects of the Applicant's proposal will not outweigh its beneficial impacts on the Town and the neighborhood.

The Applicant is advised that, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 11, no variance shall take effect until a copy of this decision bearing the certification of the Dedham Town Clerk that twenty (20) days have elapsed after the decision has been filed with the Dedham Town Clerk and no appeal has been filed and that no Special Permit shall take effect until a copy of this decision bearing the certification of the Dedham Town Clerk that twenty (20) days have elapsed after the decision has been filed with the Dedham Town Clerk and no appeal has been filed or that an appeal has been filed within such time shall be recorded in the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds or the Land Registration Office of Norfolk County.

Date: March 21, 2018

Attest by the Zoning Board of Appeals:

James F. McKrail.
James F. McGrail, Esq., Chair
J. Dreggy Jarofseu, J. Gregory Jacobsen, Vice Chair
J. Gregory Jacobsen, Vice Chair
Scott M. Steves.
Scott IVI. Steeves
Jason L. Manmone, P.E.
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Jarya F. Nokes,
Jared F. Nokes, J.D.

Attest by the Administrative Assistant:

Sugan N. Webster