INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAUREL HOLLOW BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

PUBLIC HEARING
Apri1 3, 2018
7:30 p.m.
VILLAGE HALL
1492 Laure1 Hollow Road
Syosset, New York 11791-9603

PRESENT: RUSSELL MOHR, CHAIRMAN
JEFFREY BLUMIN, MEMBER CINDY KAUFMAN, MEMBER LOUIS LEBEDIN, MEMBER

ALSO PRESENT:
HOWARD AVRUTINE, Village Attorney

ZV10-2017 - Boutis - 45 Cedarfield Road

RONALD KOENIG
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

MR. AVRUTINE: Case ZV10-2017, the reopening of the public hearing on the application of Loukas and Nicole Boutis to install a swimming pool and patio at 45 Cedarfield Road in Laurel Hollow, where the total surface coverage shall not exceed 20 percent of the lot area according to Section 145-5(A)(1)(d) of the Laure1 Hollow village code. 22.95 percent is proposed. 22 percent was approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals on October 25, 2017 under Case zv10-2017.

The property under application is also known as Section 14, Block A, Lot 1116, on the Land and Tax Map of Nassau County.

The exhibits in connection with this application are as follows:

First, all exhibits entered into the record at the Board's hearing of October 25, 2017.

The second exhibit is notification from the Nassau County Planning Commission, dated February 15, 2018, that the matter is referred to the Laurel Hollow Board of Zoning Appeals to take action as it deems appropriate.

The next exhibit is the legal notice of public hearing dated March 19, 2018.

The next exhibit is an Affidavit of Posting from Nick Porcaro that the notice of public hearing was
posted conspicuously on the bulletin board at the main entrance to the office of the village clerk on March 23, 2018.

The next exhibit is an affidavit of publication from Richner Communications stating that the legal notice was published in the Oyster Bay Guardian on March 23, 2018.

The next exhibit is an affidavit from the Deputy clerk stating that the notice of public hearing was mailed to interested parties on March 21, 2018.

The next exhibit is a document confirming that the notice of public hearing was published to the Village of Laurel Hollow website and sent to Village website NEWS subscribers on March 20, 2018.

The next exhibit is an affidavit of mailing from the applicant indicating that the notice of public hearing was mailed on March 21, 2018 to the individuals set forth in the affidavit.

The next exhibit is the Board of Zoning Appeals decision dated october 25, 2017, containing the condition that surface coverage not exceed 22 percent of lot area.

And the next exhibit is a proposed site plan prepared by HM Engineering, P.C. last revised January 22, 2018.

Are you making a presentation?
MR. MARNIKA: Yes. Good evening.
MR. AVRUTINE: Please give your name and address for the record.

MR. MARNIKA: Hrvoje Marnika. My address is 3 Cherrywood Drive, East Northport, New York 11731.

Good evening, everyone.
So at the direction of the Board from the last meeting, I went back to evaluate the plan. What I have here in front of me is the original plan with the surface coverage that was proposed at 23.6 percent. I went back to really evaluate how we could reduce the lot coverage. All the existing features, my client would like to maintain in their current shape.

So, we took a look at the patio area for the pool. And utilizing stepping stones as the primary path from the existing paver patio going to the pool patio, we're able to reduce the square footage as well as reduce the overall footprint of the patio. So what this entailed was a reduction from 23.6 percent to 22.95 percent in terms of a lot surface coverage.

So the coverage just in the pool patio in terms of percentage from what we previously had proposed is almost a 40 percent coverage in the patio for the pool. So we thought that was a pretty good, you know,
reduction there.
You can see just the outline here, the hatched area from here to the original proposal. We took off pretty much this entire portion over here, which was substantial. We were able to do that by using the stepping stones.

So respectfully request you guys could approve under the circumstance that it's still a minor variance request. We're over by 2.95 percent. And the 22 percent granted last time allowed -- it did allow the pool, okay, the pool construction, but it only left about 43 square feet for the pool patio, which is not really enough to even do anything with it.

So that's basically it.
MR. AVRUTINE: Just to clarify for the record, the calculation does include the shed which is going to be the subject of the next hearing?

MR. MARNIKA: The calculations from the beginning included the shed, always did, correct, absolutely. And the new application is for the setback.

MR. AVRUTINE: Understood.
MEMBER LEBEDIN: I know, obviously, you have your heart set on doing it this way. I look at it as this 22 percent was already an accommodation. The expectation is you're supposed to adhere to 20 percent.

I struggle to look to find some compensating factor that should justify us making an allowance to make it go over. The concern I have is the precedent-setting aspects of this, because once anyone else comes in here, I can't fairly force them to be at 20 percent when I haven't been consistent in that approach.

So I guess I'm first asking you, are there compensating factors here that I can at least reconcile in my head why you should have this variance beyond the 20 percent when others shouldn't be eligible for the same treatment?

MR. MARNIKA: My primary argument would be for that, it's not self-inflicted, in other words. Really the coverage, what's taking a lot of coverage here is the tennis court. I mean it was there prior to my client purchasing the home. It's there. It's a nice amenity. It's a nice feature. We'd rather not have to reduce that, so keeping that as it is.

You know, she's allowed to have a pool. I understand we are exceeding the lot coverage. The 43 square feet is not really much. That basically wouldn't even get a pathway to the pool. The coping is in the pool area already.
so basically looking at it it's not self-inflicted, the hardship, and it's not changing the
character of the neighborhood. And in comparison to what I feel is, you know, a large variance or a considerable variance, it's still pretty small in terms of percentage. I happen to always look at it in percentages.

MEMBER LEBEDIN: You do. I mean, you're 10 percent over. You're more than 10 percent over. You're 15 percent over. That's material. I look at 5 percent being that material.
with regard to other coverage, so this is the first expansion of the coverage area since the owner has owned the property?

MR. MARNIKA: That's correct. There was nothing expanded prior.

MEMBER LEBEDIN: Is there anything that could be done to shave back on the tennis patio?

MR. MARNIKA: I would have to speak to my client about that.

MEMBER BLUMIN: what is the lot surface coverage area of just the pool? In other words, what percentage is the pool itself?

MR. MARNIKA: Just the pool itself, it includes the perimeter coping, the one foot around it because you obviously need that, that is 1.1 percent. So out of the 20 percent that we're allowed, the pool,
the water surface and including the perimeter coping is 1.1 percent.

CHAIRMAN MOHR: That's the pool and the coping. But $I$ believe Jeff is asking the question the size of the pool patio. The pool patio looks like it's . 84.

Am I reading this incorrectly?
MR. MARNIKA: That's correct. The pool patio and the stepping stones.

CHAIRMAN MOHR: Then you have to take all of these. You have to take the equipment, the pool, the stones and the patio and add them all up, and that's going to bring you to, you know, close to your 2 point -- what were you at prior to this application?

MR. MARNIKA: 23 -- well, before the application?

CHAIRMAN MOHR: Without the pool and the proposal, was it 18 ?

MEMBER BLUMIN: You are close to 20.
MR. MARNIKA: Just under 21.
MEMBER LEBEDIN: That's what happened. The last time when we gave him 20 percent, that was just for the pool. They only had very little expansion on the patio as a result of that decision at the time.

MR. AVRUTINE: Are you able to calculate what
the reduction would be if the patio adjacent to the tennis court were removed?
member lebedin: It looks like that would make it work. That's 145 feet, as I read this, right, the tennis court patio? That's 1 percent. So that gets you to the 22 .

MR. MARNIKA: Right.
MR. AVRUTINE: Just to further illuminate, it's not self-created in the sense that your client bought it this way. But the flip side to that coin is, that there was either actual or what you call constructive knowledge that when the property was purchased, it was already maxed out on the coverage.

MR. MARNIKA: It was already over.
MR. AVRUTINE: Or close enough that when your client bought it, they knew or should have known that they would need a variance if they wanted to have any more coverage than already existed.

MR. MARNIKA: I understand that.
MR. AVRUTINE: I'm just explaining that to the Board. And I think that's part of the difficulty that the Board is having with the request.

I think that is the genesis of the inquiries regarding other things that can maybe be done to keep the approved coverage at 22 while allowing the patio
surrounding the pool, and again, maybe eliminating the patio adjacent to the tennis court, and that was something that might make this work.

MR. MARNIKA: If I can just respond to, you know, the knowledge of.

I mean, most times when you purchase a house no one reviews the zoning code. Even her attorney would have never advised her. It's not something that's in a title report. You know, it's extensive calculation. You can see I wrote every single thing down here. I mean, if there's anything that shouldn't be included in this here, but I looked at the definition in the code. I included everything, the cellar entrances, the stairs, every wall section is included in the lot coverage.

I can speak to my client, if you can give me a minute.

MEMBER LEBEDIN: Speaking for myself, I'm not even saying you have to move the whole patio, but if you made a little bit of a sacrifice, I feel like you're giving us a little, that we can give something back.

MR. AVRUTINE: Ma'am, please give your name and address.

MS. BOUTIS: Nicole Boutis, 45 Cedarfield Road, Laure1 Hollow.

So essentially then the Board wouldn't care
which patio, right? Because I mean, I have the patio outside the house and then I have that one by the tennis court. The Board wouldn't care which patio I minimized, where I took away from, as long as I take away from somewhere, if I'm understanding it right, right?

MR. AVRUTINE: The Board is not looking to dictate to you how you --

MS. BOUTIS: Right, you wouldn't care.
MR. AVRUTINE: what the Board is interested in is --

CHAIRMAN MOHR: Maintaining 22 percent.
MS. BOUTIS: So what if I shortened one of my existing patios closer to the home and I took away from there, how much, I mean I'm not really good in terms of the percentages, but in terms of square feet, how much square feet am I trying to cut back on?

CHAIRMAN MOHR: 900 square feet.
MS. BOUTIS: About 900 square feet?
member lebedin: because if you look at the tennis patio, that's roughly 1 percent, and that's the amount, so --

MS. BOUTIS: I didn't realize it was going to be 900 square feet.

CHAIRMAN MOHR: That was the struggle the last time.

MS. BOUTIS: I mean, you know, eliminating the tennis court patio, that makes it -- if you're thinking about it, this is the only -- this is my entrance and exit to the tennis court, so the space is utilized. This space, the pavers are utilized in a way that I'm just trying to picture without the patio.

MEMBER LEBEDIN: Look, I'm just speaking. I'm not saying you have to remove all this. Can you shave it and try to slim it down and at least make an accommodation to demonstrate you're giving up a little bit?

I appreciate why you want it on the pool. You want chairs around the pool. That makes sense. That's a priority. I get it. I don't own a tennis court, so I can't, unlike NJ who has strong opinions about tennis courts. But it would just seem if you can do something to kind of shrink that in a little bit and make a sacrifice, an accommodation to allow for the pool patio, at least I would feel more comfortable about going forward with it.

MS. BOUTIS: In terms of square footage, are we looking for, you know, I can --
(Whereupon, applicant and Mr. Marnika conferred.)

MS. BOUTIS: Everything is such an odd shape,
like I say, on the property. You know, the tennis court is situated in a weird place. Even the tennis court patio. You know, if you've been to the house or you can see on the drawing, it's a very odd shape, everything is so strangely shaped, you know. I don't know what they were thinking when they created it, really, I really don't.
(Whereupon, applicant and Mr. Marnika conferred.)

MS. BOUTIS: I have six, about six lights up on that wall.

MR. AVRUTINE: Surrounding the tennis court, you're referring to?

MS. BOUTIS: Right here, right here, I have about six lights that are going across. So I'm just thinking, if I, you know, so --

MR. AVRUTINE: You are talking about surrounding the tennis court patio --

MS. BOUTIS: Yes.
MR. AVRUTINE: -- for the record.
MS. BOUTIS: Yes, surrounding the tennis court
patio. So I'm just trying to -- just trying to understand like the logistics of it.
(Whereupon, applicant and Mr. Marnika conferred.)

MR. MARNIKA: And the pool has to be included, you know, even though it's actually water surface, it has to be included in there?

MR. AVRUTINE: Yes.
MR. MARNIKA: I'm just asking. I know some of the towns and villages, they'11 let you not include the pool.

MS. BOUTIS: Can I ask the Board, what if I -see the patio, one of my existing patios that juts out from, I call it like the main patio?

MR. AVRUTINE: In the rear of the home?
MS. BOUTIS: Yes. Correct.
MR. AVRUTINE: In the roughly rectangular section on the easterly side?

MS. BOUTIS: Correct. What if I reduced that, what if I took off some of that patio and I made that patio smaller?

MR. AVRUTINE: There's no dimensions there. It's hard to discern exactly how much square feet that is.

MEMBER LEBEDIN: Since we were talking roughly about reducing the brick patio by half, I would think that's less than half, but I need to see square footage.

MS. BOUTIS: What I'm saying is, if I took off some of that, okay, if I took off some of that, I'm just
trying to think where else I can take off, I mean without --
(Whereupon, applicant and Mr. Marnika conferred.)

MR. LEBEDIN: Have you thought about making the pool smaller?

CHAIRMAN MOHR: A 20 by 40 instead of a 24 by 40?

MS. BOUTIS: No, I hadn't really thought about that.
(Whereupon, defendant and counse1 conferred.)
MR. MARNIKA: I think the pool is basically a 20 by 40.24 is the outermost dimension. And then inside this pool area here, I have the perimeter coping also. So that's another 80. There's another 100 square feet there. So it's basically a 20 by 40.
(Whereupon, applicant and Mr. Marnika conferred.)

MS. BOUTIS: What if I took off some of my existing patio, the one that $I$ was referring to last time, the rectangular patio that juts out from the house, what if I shorten that? And then what if I shorten some more, I minimize the patio around the pool, what if I took off from there as well and I made that smaller?

MR. MARNIKA: The proposed patio on the north side.

MEMBER LEBEDIN: How much do you think that would come to?

CHAIRMAN MOHR: Is this to scale?
MR. MARNIKA: This is to scale, yes.
Let me see if $I$ have a scale on me. It probably would be a couple hundred square feet.

I have no scale with me. I will have to use my thumb.

CHAIRMAN MOHR: The rectangular paver patio that juts out, that is probably, what, 20 feet by -MR. MARNIKA: Probably about 20 by 15, 14, maybe 14 feet wide by 20. So we're looking at 280 square feet altogether. She was looking at taking off from the southern end going up to the stairs.

MEMBER LEBEDIN: How much did you say this was, 20 by what? It looks like about half the pool. Because the pool is 40 , and that's about half the pool, so you would say that's 20 feet long by -MR. MARNIKA: 14, 15 feet wide. MEMBER LEBEDIN: So you'11 e1iminate al1 of that?

MR. MARNIKA: No. She's looking at eliminating the southerly corner.

MEMBER LEBEDIN: A third.
MR. MARNIKA: Basically a third. So a third from 280 square feet, it's about 100 square feet.
member kaufman: I honestly feel like it's not our place to tell you where to eliminate it from. It's just our place to tell you where we want you to be and for you to come up with that number. I don't know that we should be reconfiguring.

Do you agree?
MEMBER LEBEDIN: Yes, I'm uncomfortable.
I don't want to manage your backyard. I'm trying to work with you so you can enjoy your pool with a reasonable patio. But it's too much, and you've got to figure out how you can make a concession elsewhere to get that accomodation. I'm prepared to, personally, for over the 22 percent, but not a lot. We will work with you to make it work. I don't want you to look in your backyard and go these village people were so mean to me. I want you to enjoy this, but I'm just worried about that precedent.

CHAIRMAN MOHR: Lou, in an effort to bring this to a conclusion, it sounds to me, with deliberation, that you're willing to so-call split the baby on the 22.95 .

MEMBER LEBEDIN: Right. I think that's fair.

CHAIRMAN MOHR: So rather than negotiate on the location and how you get to the 22.5 or 5.25 , whatever the number is, I'11 leave that up to you.
member lebedin: Thanks.
CHAIRMAN MOHR: If the Board wanted to consider giving a little more relief tonight and they can come back and we can finalize the plan, but you will have the parameters of which to go by.

MEMBER LEBEDIN: Right. That's fine with me. MS. BOUTIS: Okay.

MEMBER BLUMIN: Good idea.
MR. AVRUTINE: So, do you want to make any further statements?

MS. BOUTIS: We11, just so that I'm clear, in terms of going back, I mean I would --

MR. AVRUTINE: Let's assume for argument sake that the Board is willing to modify its prior approval and issue a new approval with a maximum coverage of 22.5 percent, the Board would then, presumably, approves that, then your professional will be charged with the responsibility of submitting a revised plan to the building inspector where, however you reconfigure it, the maximum coverage does not exceed the 22.5 percent, and then it will be approved as long as that maximum is not exceeded.

MS. BOUTIS: which would at least give me some time to talk with my husband.
member lebedin: you don't want to do impulse. CHAIRMAN MOHR: The alternative is, we leave it at 22 and we do nothing, or you get 22 and-a-half and you have a little bit more to play with and you have to figure out where to steal from Peter to pay Paul.

MR. AVRUTINE: The decision couldn't be made anyway because a revised plan has to be submitted.

MEMBER KAUFMAN: Rather than pick spots, we should leave it to them.

CHAIRMAN MOHR: Right.
MS. BOUTIS: In terms of, are we talking about the number now so that I have some idea of what to go on?

MR. AVRUTINE: I think from what you heard it appears that the Board is inclined to amend the approval to allow for a maximum of 22.5 percent lot coverage. MS. BOUTIS: And that is about -- so that means reducing it by another -- I'm sorry, I work so much better with the square footage.

CHAIRMAN MOHR: Rough1y 440.
MEMBER LEBEDIN: 440 square.
MR. MARNIKA: we're thinking, based on what my client has in mind, to reduce and carve out some areas.

CHAIRMAN MOHR: You can shave it from all different areas.

MR. MARNIKA: That would basically be 22.6 percent that we have to go into, you know, possibly going into the tennis court.

MS. BOUTIS: I want to just try and avoid that. So is it possible to, instead of reducing it by 440 , is it possible to get it at least a little bit less of a reduction just so that I'm not --

MEMBER BLUMIN: We11, the concession is beyond 22 percent, and so every step you take --

MS. BOUTIS: But 22 percent didn't -22 percent was basically no patio around the pool. It was just a pool, you know. And realistically, you need to have some patio around your pool, not a great one, maybe, not a large one, but something. So would it be at all possible to get it at least a little bit less of a reduction than the 440 square feet or whatever that comes out to be?

MEMBER LEBEDIN: So you came in here. You first started at 23.6, right, which is 3.6 over or, you know, 16.8 percent above what's appropriate. You know, I think --

CHAIRMAN MOHR: And keep in mind, we haven't even gotten to the shed yet.

MS. BOUTIS: I know. Right.
member lebedin: The shed is included. That's not relevant.

MS. BOUTIS: That was just a setback issue.
CHAIRMAN MOHR: It's more relief that she is requesting in her next application. I'm just putting it on the table.

MS. BOUTIS: Right.
MEMBER LEBEDIN: what percentage are you looking for? So give me a number that you're saying -CHAIRMAN MOHR: If you guys want to take a moment to talk privately.

MS. BOUTIS: Thi's fine.
(Whereupon, applicant and Mr. Marnika conferred.)

CHAIRMAN MOHR: Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know if there is any further comments, but if you want to make one more presentation. But I think the Board has kind of made their decision as to what kind of relief they would give. I don't know if you have anything more you would like to add to the record.

MS. BOUTIS: Well, I was just talking. I know it doesn't matter where we shave off from, right, it's just the number. That's fine. I won't even mention that aspect. But I was trying to calculate in terms of
square footage, because it's easier for me to work with that. But in terms of percentage, when it converts, it comes out to like 22.6 instead of 22.5. It's like a tenth of a percent difference. So I guess I would ask the Board, could I have 22.6, could I be granted approval for 22.6 percent?

MEMBER LEBEDIN: Okay. I'm okay with that. MR. AVRUTINE: Is there anything further from the applicant or --

MEMBER LEBEDIN: But you have to make it work. MS. BOUTIS: I know. I will make it work.

No, just with respect to the shed.
MR. AVRUTINE: we will get to that in a moment. That's a separate case.

Are we going to make a motion to close the public hearing at this point?

CHAIRMAN MOHR: Unless there is any comment from the public.

MR. AVRUTINE: Let the record reflect that there are no interested members in the public here.

A motion to close the public hearing?
MEMBER KAUFMAN: So moved.
MR. AVRUTINE: Member Kaufman.
A second?
MEMBER bLUMIN: Second.

MR. AVRUTINE: Member Blumin.
A11 in favor?
CHAIRMAN MOHR: Aye.
MEMBER BLUMIN: Aye.
MEMBER KAUFMAN: Aye.
MEMBER LEBEDIN: Aye.
MR. AVRUTINE: Let the record reflect that this matter is deemed Type II under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, and the proposed motion would be to approve the application with a maximum lot coverage of 22.6 percent.

Is that correct?
CHAIRMAN MOHR: Yes.
MEMBER LEBEDIN: Yes.
MR. AVRUTINE: Who will be moving that?
MEMBER LEBEDIN: So moved.
MR. AVRUTINE: Member Lebedin.
A second?
MEMBER KAUFMAN: Second.
MR. AVRUTINE: Member Kaufman.
A11 in favor?
CHAIRMAN MOHR: Aye.
MEMBER BLUMIN: Aye.
MEMBER KAUFMAN: Aye.
MEMBER LEBEDIN: Aye.

MR. AVRUTINE: Lot coverage approved at 22.6 percent.
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CERTIFIED THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF THE ORIGINAL STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES IN THIS CASE.

RONALD H. KOENIG Official Court Reporter

