Town of Highland Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 16, 2024

### Chairman states the minutes are being recorded with a new program Otter Al

## Pledge of Allegiance

**Attendance** 

Larry Fishman Present on Zoom

Jim Donnelly Absent
Gerald Finn Present
Matthew Sallusto Present
John Marciano Sr Absent
Steven Solte Present

Board Secretary Helene Hoffmann Town Attorney Steven Mogul

Javid Afzali – Special Counsel for Steven Mogel (Morales Subdivision)

Meeting opens at 6:00 PM

Chairman asks if there are any questions or comments regarding February 15, 2024 meeting minutes. No comments or questions.

Motion to accept February 15, 2024 meeting minutes as they are.

Motion: Gerald Finn Second: Steve Solte

All in favor

#### Correspondence:

None

## **Old Business:**

Chairman states there is no old business.

#### **New Business:**

Application #1-2024 - Guillermo Morales Sub Division-

Section 11 Block 1 Lot 35.1

## Represented by Caroline Akt - Requested Variance

The applicant is requesting to sell electronic gate and lot. Gate is 50' wide but should be 150' wide. Lot is .7 acres but should be 2 acres. Applicant is requesting subdivision. Two of the requests meet the standards but one does not. Applicant asked if new owner is going to maintain this and needs to be put in writing. Applicant states that owner will maintain this and that a maintenance agreement is already in place. Buyer owns all lots. Applicant wants a subdivision.

Motion to schedule a public hearing on application #1-2024 (changed to #6-2024) on Tuesday, May 21st

at 7:00 PM

Motion: Matthew Sallusto Second: Steve Solte

All in favor

## Application #2-2024 - Yeshiva Ohr Shraga Veretzy, 211 Mail Road

Represented by Steven Barshov

Applicants were referred by planning board to explain their interpretation of use for the property. Applicant explains they are not there because they want to be, but they were asked to be here. States they are here because the planning board referred this matter to the zoning board and have asked for an interpretation as to whether the proposed use of this property is religious in nature and other intended uses. The applicant states they have submitted a memorandum of law to the planning board and also to be forwarded to the zoning board the memorandum of law. The applicant states that the property is for religious use but made it clear that religious use is not defined by the zoning board or a town board. It's defined by the courts, not just with respect to Jewish religious views, but with respect to Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, whatever it is. It's all defined the same way by the courts, religious education, prayer, you treat many other things for the number of religious views. It's a religious use because they have different religious purposes. Applicant states that there have been many cases sited by the court. Mr. Barshov stated that a memorandum of law was submitted to the planning board almost a year ago and they have come to ask for a public hearing. They agreed to work with the board and share information regarding memorandum of law. Chairman asked that all information be submitted to the zoning board as well as cases sited to be submitted.

Motion to schedule a public hearing on application #2-2024 (changed to #7-2024) on Tuesday, May 21st at 7:15 PM

Motion: Steve Solte Second: Gerald Finn

All in favor.

# Application #3-2024 - Thomas and Ruth Henri Section 23 Block 1 Lot 21.4

Represented by Dave Preston – Section 23 Block 1 Lot 21.4 – Requested Variance Applicant is asking for reduction of setbacks –  $32 \times 42 - 2$  feet. Property can be seen by the road. Applicant is asking to change from a 50' front setback and 30' side setback to a 23' front setback and a 20' side setback to build a garage. When questioned why this is being requested, Dave Preston explained that the topography elsewhere on the property is not suited for this. The location where they want to build the garage is a slab of a basketball court, the land is flat and has clear access to the house. The zoning for this area is for 3 acres, so it is determined that it is a substandard lot at 1.9 acres. Questions were asked from the board regarding surrounding properties. Owner has agreed access to the property to anyone from the board who wants to view the property in person.

Motion to schedule a public hearing on application #2-2024 (changed to #7-2024) on Tuesday, May 21st at 7:30 PM

Motion: Gerald Finn Second: Steve Solte

All in favor.

Motion to close meeting at 6:31 PM

Motion: Steve Solte Second: Matt Sallusto