1	INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE		
2	BOARD OF APPEALS		
3			
4		Village Hall 196 Central Avenue Lawrence, New York	
6		December 18, 2013 7:34 p.m.	
7			
8	APPLICATION:	5 Andover Lane	
9		Lawrence, New York	
10	PRESENT:		
11		MR. LLOYD KEILSON Chairman	
12		MR. EDWARD GOTTLIEB Member	
14		MS. ESTHER WILLIAMS	
15		Member	
16		MR. LESTER HENNER Member	
17		MR. MARK SCHRECK Member	
18			
19		MR. MICHAEL RYDER Building Department	
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21			
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23			
24		Mary Benci, RPR	
25		Court Reporter	

Rabinowitz - 12/18/13

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Lawrence Village Board of Zoning Appeals. Please turn off your cell phones. If there's a need for a conversation, please take it out into the hall.

Tonight, we're short our counsel, so please don't ask us any difficult questions.

Mr. Pantelis was feeling ill and so we'll proceed without his sage advice. We'll do the best we can

under the circumstances.

Mr. Ryder, proof of posting?

MR. RYDER: I offer proof of posting, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Thank you very much.

Okay. There are a few business matters to clear up first. We have a request from the Rabinowitz family at 5 Andover for an extension of their variance, it's expiring. Do you have a date when it's expiring?

MR. RYDER: December 20th.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: December 20th of 2013, I assume.

MR. RYDER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: So they're seeking an extension of one year. Is that acceptable to the

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Rabinowitz - 12/18/13

Board? 1 2 MEMBER SCHRECK: Yes. 3 MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Yes. 4 MEMBER WILLIAMS: Yes. 5 MEMBER HENNER: Yes. 6 CHAIRMAN KEILSON: So the Board will advise 7 another year extension. I believe they're already 8 in the middle of construction or towards the end 9 of it. 10 (Whereupon, the hearing concluded at 11 7:35 p.m.) 12 ******** 13 Certified that the foregoing is a true and 14 accurate transcript of the original stenographic 15 minutes in this case. 16 Mary Benc. 17 18 MARY BENCI, RPR Court Reporter 19 20 21 22 23

24

1	INCORE	PORATED VILLAGE OF	F LAWRENCE
2		BOARD OF APPEAI	JS ,
3			
4			Village Hall 196 Central Avenue Lawrence, New York
5			December 18, 2013
6			7:35 p.m.
7	APPLICATION:	Scharf	
8	ALLUICALION.	15 Keewaydin Roa	
9		Lawrence, New Yo	rk
10	PRESENT:		
11		MR. LLOYD KEILSON	N
12		Chairman	
13		MR. EDWARD GOTTLE Member	IEB
14		MS. ESTHER WILLIA	AMS
15		MR. LESTER HENNE	2
16		Member	z.
17		MR. MARK SCHRECK Member	
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19		MR. MICHAEL RYDER Building Departme	
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Mary Benci, RPR Court Reporter

Scharf - 12/18/13

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: The matter of Scharf,

15 Keewaydin. We have a request for an
adjournment on behalf of a neighbor, and I believe
that the applicant has agreed to the extension.

We have a letter from his counsel. Is counsel
present? Is anyone present on the Scharf matter?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okay. So the Board has seen the letter. The neighbor was unable to attend tonight. He recognizes that the next date was January 15th, I believe. It will be a final adjournment. So he will have to be present for that.

Mr. Schreck.

MEMBER SCHRECK: That's fine.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Mr. Gottlieb.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: For, yes.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Mrs. Williams.

MEMBER WILLIAMS: For.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Mr. Henner.

MEMBER HENNER: For.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: So that's adjourned.

(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at

7:36 p.m.)

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Scharf - 12/18/13

Certified that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the original stenographic minutes in this case.

MARY BENCI, RPR Court Reporter

1	INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE
2	BOARD OF APPEALS
3	
4	Village Hall 196 Central Avenue Lawrence, New York
6	December 18, 2013 7:36 p.m.
7	·
8	APPLICATIO: Gelbtuch 60 Muriel Avenue
9	Lawrence, New York
10	PRESENT:
11	MR. LLOYD KEILSON Chairman
12	MR. EDWARD GOTTLIEB Member
14	MS. ESTHER WILLIAMS Member
15 16	MR. LESTER HENNER Member
17	MR. MARK SCHRECK
18	Member
19	MR. MICHAEL RYDER Building Department
20	
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Mary Benci, RPR Court Reporter

Gelbtuch - 12/18/13

1	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Gelbtuch, 60 Muriel. I		
2	know that they're present tonight.		
3	MR. GELBTUCH: I'm Mark Gelbtuch, 60 Muriel		
4	Avenue, Lawrence. So I think we're going to be		
5	requesting an adjournment for our hearing. We've		
6	submitted new plans for to be I guess considered		
7	for I guess the next meeting.		
8	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Yeah, January 15th.		
9	MR. GELBTUCH: January 15th, yes.		
10	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Mr. Henner.		
11	MEMBER HENNER: Sure.		
12	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Mrs. Williams.		
13	MEMBER WILLIAMS: For.		
14	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Mr. Gottlieb.		
15	MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Sure.		
16	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Mr. Schreck.		
17	MEMBER SCHRECK: For.		
18	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: And certainly the Chair		
19	agrees, so it will be on the 15th.		
20	(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at		
21	7:37 p.m.)		
22	***************		

Gelbtuch - 12/18/13

Certified that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the original stenographic minutes in this case.

MARY BENCI, RPR Court Reporter

1	INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE			
2	BOARD OF APPEALS			
3				
4		Village Hall 196 Central Avenue		
5		Lawrence, New York		
		December 18, 2013		
6		7:37 p.m.		
7	APPLICATION:	Central Sutton LLC		
8		160 Central Avenue Lawrence, New York		
9				
10	PRESENT:			
11		MR. LLOYD KEILSON Chairman		
12		MR. EDWARD GOTTLIEB		
13		Member		
14		MS. ESTHER WILLIAMS Member		
15		MR. LESTER HENNER		
16		Member		
17		MR. MARK SCHRECK Member		
18		MR. MICHAEL RYDER		
19		Building Department		
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25		Mary Benci, RPR Court Reporter		

Central Sutton LLC - 12/18/13

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: The matter of Central Sutton LLC. Is anybody here on their behalf, Central Sutton? We just have to formalize that which has been voted upon by the Board the last time.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: So the modification was that I think new drawings were submitted.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: That's right.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Consistent with the decision rendered that evening.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Reducing it to five percent over building coverage.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: The Building Department has new plans, correct?

MR. RYDER: Correct, we do, and they were reviewed.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: So I don't know, without Mr. Pantelis to tell us what to do, but we'll affirm the decision of that evening from the Board.

MEMBER WILLIAMS: Yes.

MEMBER SCHRECK: Yes.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Okay, that will be good.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: To formally affirm.

Central Sutton LLC - 12/18/13

(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at 7:38 p.m.)

Certified that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the original stenographic minutes in this case.

MARY BENCI, RPR Court Reporter

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1	INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE			
2		BOARD OF APPEALS		
3			77.11	
4			Village Hall 196 Central Avenue Lawrence, New York	
6			December 18, 2013	
			7:38 p.m.	
7	APPLICATION:			
8		97 Park Row Lawrence, New Yo	rk	
9				
10	PRESENT:			
11		MR. LLOYD KEILSO Chairman	N	
12		MR. EDWARD GOTTL	TER	
13		Member	± ± ± ±	
14		MS. ESTHER WILLI. Member	AMS	
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16		MR. LESTER HENNE: Member	K	
17	MR. MARK SCHRECK			
18		Member		
19		MR. MICHAEL RYDER Building Department		
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25			y Benci, RPR rt Reporter	

1 CHAIRMAN KEILSON: The matter of Gott,
2 Park Row.
3 MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Before you begin, I just
4 need to mention that I'm a neighbor. I live

need to mention that I'm a neighbor. I live within the 300 feet of this house. Actually, I live two houses away. I don't see any reason why I should recuse myself. I have no personal interest in this matter.

MR. CAMMARATA: Okay.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Sorry to interrupt you.

MR. CAMMARATA: No problem.

Good evening, members of the Board.

Joseph Cammarata, 476 Coolidge Street,

West Hempstead, New York 11552, representing

Miss Kelly Gott, here to my left, 97 Park Row,

Lawrence.

We're here tonight seeking relief to maintain a rear wood deck on Miss Gott's property which violates Section 212-18.D for a minimum rear-yard setback of 20 feet; and Section 212-18(2) subsection (B) for a maximum rear-yard setback to height ratio of one to ten.

The southern portion of the deck in question occupies approximately 230 square feet and approaches the western property line and is raised

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approximately two feet above the grade level.

Another portion of the deck also occupies 130
square feet with the same setback from the western
property line and is elevated approximately ten
inches off the grade level. The setback
maintained is 1.1 feet and also presents a
rear-yard setback to height ratio of one to 59
where a 20-foot rear yard and a one-to-ten ratio
is required. We have submitted pictures with our
application to show the condition of the deck.

To start the process, I have a few new current pictures, if the Board would like to submit as evidence of the current condition as of last week.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: When was the deck built?

MR. CAMMARATA: The deck was built in May of
2012.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okay. And the applicant was not aware that she had to seek a variance for it?

MR. CAMMARATA: At the time, no; the applicant was not from the area. And this is her first residential in a suburban area, and she was not aware of the Village's codes and requirements in the zoning area.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okay.

MS. GOTT: I'm apologetic.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Introduce yourself, please.

MS. GOTT: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm Kelly Gott of 97 Park Row. So I've tried to do everything since then to go through the proper process and work with the Board and the Village here.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okay.

MR. CAMMARATA: At this time I'd like to submit those pictures.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Certainly.

MR. CAMMARATA: Five here (handing).

MR. RYDER: Thank you.

MR. CAMMARATA: The pictures labeled 1A and 1B shows the deck with the patio furniture consisting of a round table and four chairs of wicker material and an umbrella and a portable propane fired self-contained barbecue that was purchased at Lowe's.

Picture 2B shows the view of the average person standing on the raised portion of the deck looking into the neighbor's yard.

The picture labeled 3B shows the view of the average person standing on the lower portion of

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the deck overlooking the rear property line.

In both pictures you are able to see the deck in question is lower in elevation and less in square footage than the apportioned deck; however, the setbacks do not meet.

Also, at this point I'd like to submit consent letters from the surrounding neighbors expressing their satisfaction in what Miss Gott is proposing to legalize (handing).

MR. RYDER: Thank you.

MR. CAMMARATA: As per the adjournment from the last hearing that we were scheduled for back in October, we had a neighbor-to-neighbor situation where one of the neighbors, the adjacent rear of the property, was unhappy with the status of the deck.

Since then, Miss Gott has made numerous attempts to mitigate the situation. Over the past 60 days it's been relatively quiet. In fact, until today, yet again, where the neighbor expressed some kind of interest in mediating the issue. Unfortunately --

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Mr. Cammarata, that neighbor, I believe, happens to be here and can probably speak for himself at some point.

believe he walked in after you began so you didn't see that. Can I ask you a question about the deck? You mentioned one portion is ten inches above grade. MR. CAMMARATA: Correct. MEMBER GOTTLIEB: The other one, I believe, 7 is 21 inches. MR. CAMMARATA: Yes. MEMBER GOTTLIEB: So the step in between, that's about 11 inches or so? MR. CAMMARATA: Correct. 12 CHAIRMAN KEILSON: I think it's worthwhile 13 pointing out, Mr. Ryder, what's the rule as far as decks? 15 MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Whereby they would not need 16 a variance. 17 CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Whereby they require a variance. MR. RYDER: One step which is the maximum of eight inches is where we request a permit when you 21 exceed that. 23

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MEMBER GOTTLIEB: So are you saying that all of this could be built as of right if it was at eight inches, and no higher without a special variance?

1	MR. RYDER: Possibly looking at a surface
2	coverage issue.
3	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Barring a surface
4	coverage, that would be a different issue.
5	MR. RYDER: Correct.
6	MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Is there a surface coverage
7	issue here?
8	MR. RYDER: I don't believe so.
9	MEMBER GOTTLIEB: No, these are just height/
10	setback ratio and minimum rear-yard setback.
11	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okay. Any other?
12	MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Just to repeat, that this
13	could be built as of right at eight inches or
14	below grade, and roughly 13 inches below where it
15	is now.
16	MR. RYDER: Correct.
17	MEMBER GOTTLIEB: One portion 13 inches, one
18	portion two inches less.
19	MR. RYDER: Correct.
20	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okay. Any other questions
21	from the Board at this moment?
22	(No response.)
23	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Let's see if we can hear
24	from the neighbor or any other party, if you want
25	to address, please. Let Mary know who you are and

your address.

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MR. BRICKELL: My name is Mark Brickell.

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to the, I guess, west?

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address is 516 Chauncey Lane. CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Sir, you are the neighbor

MR. BRICKELL: We're to the west, right, so this construction bumps up against our property

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Right.

line, our mutual property line.

MR. BRICKELL: And the houses in this section are not very far apart. I think each of us would be about ten feet from the property line, all right, the building itself.

Unfortunately, the effect of the construction of the deck once furniture and cooking apparatus are placed on it is to extend the living area of my neighbor right up to the property line that we share. The grill has been placed so that it vents into our yard. It's closer to our house -- well, to our property than to my neighbor's house.

MEMBER HENNER: Could you speak up a little bit. I'm sorry.

MR. BRICKELL: Sure. Do you want me to repeat?

MEMBER HENNER: No, I heard everything, but

I'm straining.

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MR. BRICKELL: And the placement of the picnic table and the umbrella is also right up against the property line. So in an area where we don't have a lot of room between the houses, the buffer between our living areas has effectively been eliminated by the construction of the deck and the placement of these items on it.

So I've expressed some concern about this to Kelly and reached out yesterday and today with some specific ideas about how we might remediate the problem. There's some aspects of it that I think could be dealt with -- well, my effort has been to find ways to deal with it that would not be expensive.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okay. And what kind of response did you get from your neighbor when you put forward these ideas?

MR. BRICKELL: She indicated that she would take them under advisement.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okav.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Mr. Brickell, I just want to mention that I didn't ask, but I'm pretty sure that all the members have been to your house and they are eyewitnesses of what was built.

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want to, I guess, maybe remind you that the entrance to your house is a little bit unusual in that the entrance to your house is on the side of the property, not on the front of the property.

So just that I think they may have all been out there back in October and may or may not recall, but the entrance is on the side and so your objection about the barbecue is that when you walk into the front door of your house, is that adjacent to where the barbecue is?

MR. BRICKELL: The barbecue is set back a little bit from the front door. The picnic table is adjacent to the front door, but as you rise up the steps to enter our house you get an even clearer view of all the living equipment that's on the neighboring deck. It's close by. The grill is set a little farther back, but it's opposite our living room. The table, the picnic table is visible through the window of our living room. It's all close by. And I quess the reason we have these restrictions is in order to provide some sort of a buffer to prevent these kinds of sensations to the extent that we can.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Understood.

Okay, any other questions? Any questions?

MEMBER WILLIAMS: You said you came up with some ideas. Do you want to share them?

MR. BRICKELL: Well, I'm happy to if you want me to.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Please.

MR. BRICKELL: Four of the -- well, three design elements in this plan cause a particular problem for me, and even I think for people walking up and down the street. The parts that rise above the four-foot-high fence that separates the two properties are particularly visible.

Those elements would be the grill itself, the umbrella on the table, and the railing that is closest to Chauncey Lane, the one that's visible from the street. And you can see that those features rise up above the fence line, rise up above the vegetation and they're particularly noticeable.

I thought that perhaps by moving the grill so that it backs up against the cellar door of 97 Park Row, right, so it's tucked back into the house structure it would not be so visible and we wouldn't have the proximity of the cooking. That by taking the umbrella off the table, that would not be such a -- such a noticeable feature. And

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that by lowering the railing so that it matches the height of the four-foot-high fence things would blend in a little bit more, and I'd like to think that none of those things would be as expensive as other forms of remediation.

It leaves me with some concern about what would happen if the house was sold or if a tenant moves in because these are all the kinds of things that someone might change coming out there and buying a place that had a deck, but Miss Gott offered to agree to remove the deck upon the sale of the house, which if that's an enforceable arrangement would solve the problem.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: It is.

MR. RYDER: Just a couple of comments,

Mr. Chairman. The railing, there's minimum code
requirements with that.

MR. BRICKELL: I figured there might be.

MR. RYDER: Thirty-six inches. We have an architect here tonight that can validate that's the minimum requirement and we must maintain that.

MR. BRICKELL: Thirty-six above grade?

MR. RYDER: Thirty-six inches above the top of the deck.

MR. BRICKELL: So that would put us at about

23 plus.

MR. RYDER: They could lower it due to the fact that I think it's 30 inches above grade requires the rail, so I think they can lower it.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: If the grade is less than the deck, the platform is less than 30 inches from the grade, they could bring the fence down.

MR. BRICKELL: Bring it down to the four-foot level, the same height as the fence?

MR. RYDER: As of right, yes.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: They could bring it down to the fence, right.

MR. RYDER: I'm answering my own objections.

And the barbecue, there's a fire separation,
so I would prefer it not be against the dwelling.

MR. BRICKELL: It's a moveable --

MR. RYDER: Right.

MR. BRICKELL: As I've said to her, if you need to move it out to cook, go ahead, but let's not have it sitting there 365 days a year.

MR. RYDER: That's code.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Thank you very much.

Let's hear from the applicant. We generally don't engage in this type of a dialogue, but we have a short calendar tonight so we'll try to get

this resolved.

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MR. CAMMARATA: Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: We leave this to Judge Judy normally.

> Seems like we need one. MS. GOTT:

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: So apparently the neighbor has put forth three suggestions to mitigate, and where do we stand on those three suggestions?

MR. CAMMARATA: I would defer the response to that to the owner.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Yes, of course. Rather than taking it under advisement, why don't we just make some decision.

MS. GOTT: I mean, that's fine. I mean, the only thing I would say is the deck was built nineteen months ago, and I made repeated attempts to have a conversation. So it wasn't until today, on the day of the now rescheduled Board meeting, I feel like if he's taken nineteen months, I can take two hours to think about it, talk to the person that I have employed to help me sort through this process, so in the airport in Chicago today I didn't want to have to make a decision.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: I hear what you're saying, but here we are tonight on the adjourned night in

front of the Board, and we are engaging in 1 2 something we normally don't want to engage in. MS. GOTT: Yeah, I'm a little confused, but 3 4 I'm kind of uncomfortable talking to the Board about my umbrella, but I'm happy to do that. 5 6

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: We're not happy to do that, truthfully.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: We've had worse conversations, much worse.

MS. GOTT: I mean, you've got to be kidding So if it's -- legally, I thought that I had to have a railing on the end. So if I can bring it to that height, no problem. I'll get a saw out and I'll have it fixed in short order.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: There's three items: The grill, the umbrella and the railing.

MS. GOTT: The grill can certainly be rolled around; that's not a problem.

The Building Department CHAIRMAN KEILSON: can come each time you want to barbecue and they can move the grill.

MR. RYDER: I'm just concerned about it against the dwelling; that's my concern.

MS. GOTT: So I object a little bit to the umbrella, but if it's the deck or the umbrella

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I'll pick the deck.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Miss Gott, let me ask you, in your application it's mentioned that it's heavily wooded and that's why you needed the deck because it's a damp area.

MS. GOTT: Yeah. I mean, it was basically a dirt patch, so most of my other neighbors think it's an improvement aesthetically.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: The reason why I'm asking, is the umbrella really necessary if it's a heavily shaded area per your statement in the application?

MS. GOTT: Yeah, it's not. It's out -- that part's out in the open.

MR. CAMMARATA: If I may interrupt. The area in question is actually not shaded; it's not properly drained so that in rain or in where snow tends to melt in that area it just becomes an absolute mud pit. That was really the reason, because Miss Gott was unable to use the rear yard because it would essentially render it a sloppy mess.

MS. GOTT: And the deck -- the barbecue and the table and the umbrella were all there before I built the deck. They're arguably higher now and more visible, but they were there before.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okay.

MS. GOTT: And it's hard to say, I mean, everything in their house is visible from my house too. We're nineteen feet apart.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: I understand. We're discussing a particular situation where something was done not according to the rules.

MS. GOTT: Yes, and my apologies.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Very often we're asked instead of these three kind of simple requests much more substantial requests, such as putting in a row of bushes or hedges. You don't have that space without removing the deck.

MS. GOTT: Right.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Unfortunately, that's not on the table as a request. Just to give you an idea of what we've heard in the past in other similar types of situations.

MS. GOTT: Right.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Did you offer to remove the deck in the event of the sale of the house?

MS. GOTT: I did, trying to be cooperative.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: That's very, very commendable.

MS. GOTT: Right?

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Yeah, I agree. Any other questions from the Board?

MEMBER HENNER: No.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Are you satisfied with the barbecue being moved and the umbrella?

MEMBER HENNER: Sure.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Any other questions?

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: And the railing being

lowered, right.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okay. So we're considering the application now with the provision that there will be the umbrella removed, the railing being lowered to match the height of the balance of the fence, and the grill being placed as close to the house as possible, but obviously observing the concerns of the Building Department of not barbecuing right up to the house.

MR. RYDER: Correct, fire separation.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Fire separation.

And a commitment that in the event there's a sale of the house that the deck will be removed at that time. So that's what we're going to vote on.

Mr. Schreck.

MEMBER SCHRECK: I vote for.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Mr. Gottlieb.

1	MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Provided that both parties
2	are in unison on this, I'm totally for it.
3	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Well, there seems to be a
4	consensus.
5	MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Yes, I'm sorry, I'm just
6	repeating.
7	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Mrs. Williams.
8	MEMBER WILLIAMS: I'm for. I like to see
9	neighbors working things out.
10	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: I'm for as well. So thank
11	you very much.
12	MS. GOTT: Thank you.
13	MR. CAMMARATA: Thank you.
14	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Good evening.
15	(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at
16	7:57 p.m.)
17	***************
18	Certified that the foregoing is a true and
19	accurate transcript of the original stenographic
20	minutes in this case.
21	
22	May Benci
23	MARY BENCI, RPR
24	Court Reporter

1	INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE			
2	BOARD OF APPEALS			
3		17	illaga Hall	
4		19	illage Hall 96 Central Avenue awrence, New York	
5			ecember 18, 2013	
6			:57 p.m.	
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8	APPLICATION:	Fox 51 Herrick Drive Lawrence, New York		
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10	PRESENT:			
11		MR. LLOYD KEILSO Chairman	N	
12		MR. EDWARD GOTTL	TEB	
13		Member	115	
14		MS. ESTHER WILLI Member	AMS	
15			D	
16		MR. LESTER HENNE Member	K	
17		MR. MARK SCHRECK Member		
18		MR. MICHAEL RYDE	D	
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CHAIRMAN KEILSON: The matter of Fox, 51 Herrick Drive.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Well, we're here this evening --

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Did you introduce yourself?

MR. CAPOBIANCO: John Capobianco, architect,
159 Doughty Boulevard, Inwood.

This is Mrs. Fox, 51 Herrick Road, Herrick Lane, Herrick Drive.

You know, the Foxes have been in this community, lived in this house for 24 years. They have eight children and nine grandchildren. Four of the eight children still live home in the house. The house is crowded, to say the least. And they have a full basement which they wanted to increase in size by underpinning the section in the back, which is a crawl. We've run tests so that we can increase the size of the basement so it could be a usable basement.

The goal was to change the design of the roof in order to create for volume of storage in the attic to get a little bit more attic space by creating a gambrel roof, and in doing the gambrel roof we actually on the right side of the house

improved the height/setback ratio. We improved it. The old gable end created a worse condition in terms of height/setback ratio. So it's actually improving the height/setback ratio on the north side of the house.

The rear of the property it was only a 26-foot rear yard. We had gotten a couple of years back I think a variance to build a one-story addition. At that point there was a gable roof that was a little lower, so the height/setback ratio for the rear yard would be increased, and the front yard there's a very small portion of the gambrel roof that is in the plane of the height/setback ratio. So there's actually three height/setback ratios we're asking for; the right side, the rear, and the front.

And by creating this extra volume with the gambrel roof, they can get close to a seven-foot clear standable height at the center and then create more volume on the sides so they could store a lot of the stuff they have now down in their basement. So the basement can be developed and finished and become more usable and functional. And also, with the additional space that we want to create underneath by underpinning

the room in the back behind the garage and the garage. So that we're creating a larger basement. But it all stays within the footprint of the existing house.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: The question that arose is we'd like a better understanding of the prior variances because, as you know, the Board is generally not happy at the nibble effect, a variance, a variance, a variance. But had the applicant come at the first stage and asked for the full scope, the attitude might have been different. So I think it's very important for all parties to understand exactly what the history of the variances are.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Also, you know, the neighbors in the rear and the two sides were, I believe, spoken to and they're all in favor of the application, and they don't have a problem with the new roof line or the look of the house. They feel that the appearance of the house will be, you know, immensely enhanced by creating this gambrel roof, and you know, it's something that, you know, I think would add to the block.

But the variance, I think the -CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Just to --

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Go ahead.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: To that end, I would have liked to see letters, number one.

Number two, there was a call received by the Village in objection by a party that does not want to be named. As you know, in our close community it's not unusual for people to be reticent about being public about their objection.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Okay.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: So as uncomfortable as I am about suggesting that we should give it any credence, the fact of the matter is the representation that you made just now it's not accurate, okay.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Did you not speak to the -- MS. FOX: I spoke to every single neighbor within my perimeter, but --

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: We're not talking about the 300-foot radius. We're talking about the most effected by it.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: The one to the north and to the south.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Why don't we leave that for the moment.

MS. FOX: I spoke to Zahn.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okay.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: That's at the rear. Zahn is immediately to the rear.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: It's not uncommon for a neighbor to say that they don't have an objection to you, and then secretly say I didn't want them to know I objected. So you may not be aware someone is objecting.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: So the statement could be true that I made.

MEMBER HENNER: It could be.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Well, that's what I'm saying. It could be a true statement.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: You're not under oath so we're not going to hold you to it.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: So, you know, I think that the variance --

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: The other issue, just for the sake of making the record very clear, I think part of the reason that there's an objection, there's an understanding that there's another family living in the house presently.

MS. FOX: Correct.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: And that being the case, there's a concern that a lot of this work is being

1	done to accommodate the presence of another
2	family.
3	MS. FOX: It's my husband's brother.
4	MR. CAPOBIANCO: Is he staying there?
5	MS. FOX: Temporarily. It's not a permanent
6	situation.
7	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: How many people are in the
8	family?
9	MS. FOX: Currently, six.
10	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Do you understand the
11	light that's, you know, shed as a result of that?
12	MS. FOX: I mean, there is no truth this
13	being a permanent situation. They're in
14	unfortunate times.
15	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: The accommodations are
16	permanent. So if we accommodate the space and
17	it's done for a reason to make it habitable, as
18	you know there are some issues with that.
19	MR. CAPOBIANCO: Well, the intent is not to
20	make the is to make rooms in the basement, not
21	the attic, but in order to make the attic
22	MEMBER GOTTLIEB: One allows the other.
23	MR. CAPOBIANCO: Pardon me?
24	MEMBER GOTTLIEB: By giving you the attic, it

allows you that room you want in the basement.

you create a little more volume.

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MEMBER WILLIAMS: So it's not livable space.

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MR. CAPOBIANCO: It's not habitable; it's not

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legal habitable space.

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MEMBER WILLIAMS: I know it's not legal.

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you could physically live there if you were --

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MR. CAPOBIANCO: Yeah, if you were a dwarf,

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you know, you could live up there.

9 MR. RYDER: Mr. Capobianco, looking at the

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elevation, I see eight feet five inches in the attic. Is that to the underside of the ridge, and then you're saying the collar ties will be lower, obviously.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Yeah. Here's the drawing that shows the seven foot or the six-eleven dimension where the collar ties would connect the roof at the top; the higher gambrel portion of the roof will be a collar tie. You have to hold it together in order to make this work. So that would be about seven feet to the highest point. Yeah, six-eleven is seven once you finish the floor.

MR. RYDER: Okay. New York State residential code requires seven feet.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Seven-six, I believe, or

1 seven-four. 2 MR. RYDER: Well, I think seven-four would be 3 okay, too. But you're saying that it's 4 non-habitable space. 5 MR. CAPOBIANCO: It's non-habitable space, 6 yes. 7 MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Unless you're a dwarf you 8 said. 9 MR. CAPOBIANCO: Unless you're a dwarf. 10 MEMBER GOTTLIEB: You had mentioned that 11 you're keeping the 26-foot ridge height, but --12 MR. CAPOBIANCO: No, no, I said the existing 13 house is 26. We're raising it to 30. We're 14 going to bring the ridge to the maximum 30 above 15 grade. 16 MEMBER GOTTLIEB: I beg to argue with your 17 own application. 18 MEMBER WILLIAMS: It says here height 30 19 feet, 30 feet, existing 26, proposed no change. 20 MR. CAPOBIANCO: That's incorrect. 21 CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Whoa. 22 MR. CAPOBIANCO: That's incorrect, and it's 23 right clear on the drawings that it's 30 feet. 24 It's dimensioned 30 feet and that note is

incorrect. The new -- the new height is 30.

falls within the limits of the required height, but it is a change from 26 to 30.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Even if it was 26 -CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Let me just understand, is
that a change since the last variance?

MR. CAPOBIANCO: No, no. The last variance only was a one-story addition in the rear. We didn't touch the original house. This had nothing to do with the last variance at all. The last variance didn't incorporate the rest of the house. It was just a one-story addition. It was just this piece in the back, that's all we went for the variance for. We didn't go for anything for the house. We were keeping the same gable roof. The original variance did have a 26-foot roof. It was the same roof on the original house.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: So the reason it was not even addressed was because it's within code; is that what you're saying?

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Probably, that's why he said no change. But it does change from 26 to the maximum required 30. So we're proposing 30 from what was existing, 26, allowable 30.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: So what will the front elevation look like? I'm trying to understand.

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1 Without the new request. 2 MR. CAPOBIANCO: Well, it's just a -- what it 3 is, it's a gable roof, like a colonial-style roof. 4 The ridge is four foot lower to 26. 5 gambrel style roof which is 30 to the ridge. MEMBER WILLIAMS: In other words, what 6 7 you're saying is, if we would say technically no 8 to this, the house would look the same as it does 9 now? 10 MR. CAPOBIANCO: No, it would be a different 11 look. It would be a totally different look. 12 MEMBER WILLIAMS: If you didn't do that. 13 MR. CAPOBIANCO: Oh, if you didn't do that, 14 the house would be exactly the same as it was. 15 MEMBER WILLIAMS: With the new variances? 16 MR. CAPOBIANCO: With the -- no, it can't 17 with them. 18 MEMBER WILLIAMS: Listen to me. 19 here, variance granted, variance granted, variance 20 granted. 21 MR. CAPOBIANCO: That was the prior variance. 22 MEMBER WILLIAMS: And you haven't done the 23 work. 24

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MR. CAPOBIANCO: They haven't done the work. MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay, good. If you would

do those three variances --1 2 MR. CAPOBIANCO: Right. The house would look 3 exactly --4 MEMBER WILLIAMS: -- and today would not be 5 granted, let's say, okay, what will the front of 6 the house look like? That's what Mr. Keilson is 7 asking. 8 MR. CAPOBIANCO: The same as it does now. 9 MEMBER WILLIAMS: That's what I wanted to 10 So it would be the same as it is now at 26 11 with these variances with the building as you see 12 here, and now you are just asking to change the 13 roof. 14 MR. CAPOBIANCO: Right, just the roof. 15 MEMBER WILLIAMS: If we didn't change the 16 roof, it would look like it does in the pictures 17 that you gave us? 18 MR. CAPOBIANCO: That's correct, exactly. 19 MR. RYDER: What is the existing ceiling 20 height in the attic presently? MR. CAPOBIANCO: Well, to the collar ties 21 22 about five, four and a half, five. 23 MS. FOX: Not everywhere. 24 MR. CAPOBIANCO: What is it, about this high 25 (indicating)?

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Exactly, right.

MEMBER WILLIAMS: Like it looks now.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Correct.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Correct, if you did the extension in the back.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Let's go off the record.

(Whereupon, a discussion was held off the record.)

MS. FOX: Can I just clarify that family situation?

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Sure, I think it's --

MS. FOX: My husband's brother was on sabbatical, he was a rabbi in Dayton, Ohio. He came back from sabbatical to no job, decided to come here where he has family. He was living with my sister-in-law in Woodmere. She was affected by Sandy. They were able to stay there for a little bit. When she started to do construction, they could not stay there. So they've been by us trying to get on their feet, trying to get a job. Right now working bits and pieces trying to get themselves together. There's no intention of them staying here. We're just helping out.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: So either they'll stay there and you'll move out or --

MS. FOX: Well, the intent is for them to get on their feet. We're helping them so they can get on their feet, get themselves a job, find themselves a place to live.

MEMBER WILLIAMS: It's not that we're not caring. It's just that we've said no to so many people about living space on the third floor.

MS. FOX: But I want to clarify that's not the intent at all.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: There's room in Sutton Park.

MS. FOX: My kids have now joined together in rooms and they're occupying three of the bedrooms in our house.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: There's an expression: If you build it, they will stay.

MR. RYDER: It's a movie.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: So my concern about the roof line really is just mass. From an aesthetic point of view, not that I want to argue the point, but it seems that the house just to your left is about one and a half story, the house to your right is a full two story. And this house just seems that it's going to be quite massive in terms of bulk. And I don't -- that's the problem that

I'm seeing with it. And that's why, of course, we have height/setback ratios is to avoid some of the mass.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Well, actually, like I said before, the north side height/setback ratio is improved.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Yeah.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: The one that was -- this one is the side on the -- the right side of the house, the north side. That one is slightly improved. It's actually the other one, the front one which you could see it from the -- well, I marked it in It's probably a light color, but that is a very small triangle that projects into the height/setback ratio, and it's only a portion of the reverse -- it's only this part right here (indicating) that's in the height/setback ratio. It's a very small portion of the house in the front, because when you look at the front the roof line is going back, it's going vanishing back, like a gable would do. Except this is a little steeper. More like a barn-type house, and then it goes flat again, a lower slope. So it's actually creating more volume, but I don't think the mass is going to be that much noticeable.

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CHAIRMAN KEILSON: But also bear in mind that the existing height/setback ratio is off of a 26-foot height, and therefore, it's not as imposing.

MR. RYDER: That's correct.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Even though the height/setback ratio is actually improving dimensionally, but in terms of the effect because the house is larger so the effect will be more impactful.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Well, there's a solution to the side portion of the gambrel which you could create a hip. You could hip the end of it. So by hipping the end of it, it's going to help a lot of the massiveness of it, and that could be one thing that could be a slight change which is really taking from this point -- from that point, Mike, and instead of having it straight up, having it from this point come back on an angle, like a hip, so the top lower portion of the roof that could be hipped this end so it gives the illusion that it's lower (indicating).

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: That would be the left side?

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Well, the right is already

hipped. It would be on the left side.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: So it would be --

MR. RYDER: It would be more like the neighbor's roof.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Would it be similar to the left side of the house currently where you have that hip roof currently?

MR. CAPOBIANCO: You mean the right side of the house, the north side.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: If I'm facing the house.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Facing the house the right side. Now, right now, currently, what's on the left side of the house is a gable, it's a high ridge, it's a gable. It's not a hip.

The main house ridge is a gable. And it's the same thing, but this would be a hip at the very top which does cut down the height a little bit. It would help soften it.

MEMBER GOTTLIEB: And you're saying that on the right side it's already done.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Right. If you look at the right side it has that slope. You could do the same thing on the left side which really brings it down. It just gives it a little less usable attic space, but maybe you could live with that.

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Fox - 12/18/13MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Could you draw it either on my sketch or --MR. CAPOBIANCO: Yeah. MEMBER GOTTLIEB: And perhaps you can do it on the front of the house, not the side. MR. CAPOBIANCO: Yeah, I drew it from the 6 front. It would look like that (indicating). CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Off the record. (Whereupon, a discussion was held off the record.) CHAIRMAN KEILSON: I think it also should be 12 13

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pointed out on your behalf that the house is sort of set back in that cul-de-sac so the impact will be lessened anyway.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Yes, true. It's hard to even see it until you get on top of it.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Correct.

MEMBER WILLIAMS: I like the idea of making it look a little less massive.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: Well, we could do, you know, like that. I'm happy with the look of it. You're only losing very little. What you lose on the side for storage you pick up in the front.

CHAIRMAN KEILSON: Okay. So in order for us to vote properly on it --

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circulate them.

MR. CAPOBIANCO: I have to resubmit it. CHAIRMAN KEILSON: We just need the new drawings. We don't want to really go through a lot of discussion about it, but I think if you draw consistent, number one, accurately, with the correct numbers. And then number two, if you 6 7 incorporate the slight modifications, I think that 8 we'll have accomplished what we all want to 9 accomplish. 10 MR. CAPOBIANCO: We could do that. 11 have to reappear or just resubmit? 12 CHAIRMAN KEILSON: No, you have to appear on 13 the 15th so we can vote on that. 14 MR. CAPOBIANCO: I'll be here anyway, so I'll 15 come that night. Really? 16 CHAIRMAN KEILSON: MEMBER WILLIAMS: That's fine. 17 18 CHAIRMAN KEILSON: I think you should -- we don't need the Foxes. 19 MR. CAPOBIANCO: All right, we'll do that. 20 We'll modify the drawings this weekend and give it 21 to Mike, and then you'll have them ahead of time 22 23 before the next meeting. 24 CHAIRMAN KEILSON: And you don't have to

	FOX - 12/18/13
1	MR. CAPOBIANCO: Okay.
2	MS. FOX: Thank you very much.
3	CHAIRMAN KEILSON: No problem.
4	MR. CAPOBIANCO: All right, that would be
5	good. Thanks for your input.
6	MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Thank you, Mr. Capobianco.
7	MR. RYDER: Thank you.
8	(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at
9	8:24 p.m.)
10	***************
11	Certified that the foregoing is a true and
12	accurate transcript of the original stenographic
13	minutes in this case.
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15	Mary Binci
16	MARY BENCI, RPR Court Reporter
17	Codit Reporter
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MR. CAPOBIANCO: Okay. MS. FOX: Thank you very much. CHAIRMAN KEILSON: No problem. MR. CAPOBIANCO: All right, that would be good. Thanks for your input. MEMBER GOTTLIEB: Thank you, Mr. Capobianco. MR. RYDER: Thank you. (Whereupon, the hearing concluded at 8:24 p.m.) ******** Certified that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the original stenographic minutes in this case. MARY BENCI, RPR Court Reporter