

Case # BZA-08-25-00894

Charleston County BZA Meeting of October 6, 2025

Applicants/Property Owners: Tracey Culcleasure and Frederick Culcleasure

Property Location: 532 Society Road – East Area

TMS#: 764-00-00-556

Zoning District: Agricultural Residential (AGR) Zoning District

#### Request:

Variance request to reduce the required 50' front/street side setback by 40.2' to 9.8' for an existing unpermitted detached accessory structure (carport).

#### Requirement:

The Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), Chapter 4 Base Zoning Districts, Article 4.9 AGR, Agricultural Residential District, Sec. 4.9.3 Density/Intensity and Dimensional Standards requires a 50' front/street side setback.



#### **CHAPTER 4 | BASE ZONING DISTRICTS**

#### ARTICLE 4.9 AGR, AGRICULTURAL/RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

#### Sec. 4.9.1 Purpose and intent

The AGR, Agricultural Residential Zoning District implements the Agricultural Residential policies of the *Comprehensive Plan*. The district is intended for application in all Settlement Areas.

#### Sec. 4.9.2 Use Regulations

Uses are allowed in the AGR District in accordance with the Use Regulations of CHAPTER 6, Use Regulations.

#### Sec. 4.9.3 Density/Intensity and Dimensional Standards

All Development in the AGR District shall be subject to the following Density/Intensity and Dimensional Standards:

Table 4.9	9.3, AGR Density/Intensity and Dimensional Stan	dards	
	Non-Waterfront Development Standards	Waterfront Development Standards	
MAXIMUM DENSITY	1 Principal Dwelling Unit per Acre		
MINIMUM LOT AREA	30,000 square feet	1 acre	
MINIMUM LOT WIDTH	100 feet	125 feet	
MINIMUM LOT WIDTH AVERAGE	N/A	150 feet	
MINIMUM SETBACKS			
Front/Street Side	50 feet		
Interior Side	15 feet		
Rear	30 feet		
WETLAND, WATERWAY, AND OCRM CRITICAL LINE SETBACK	N/A	50 feet	
WETLAND, WATERWAY, AND OCRM CRITICAL LINE BUFFER	N/A	35 feet	
MAXIMUM BUILDING COVERAGE [1]	30% of Lot		
MAXIMUM IMPERVIOUS SURFACE COVERAGE [1]	40% of Lot or as allowed by the current edition of the Charleston County Stormwater Manual		
MAXIMUM HEIGHT	35 feet		

<sup>[1]</sup> Maximum Impervious Surface Coverage applies only to Residential Development on Parcels less than 30,000 square feet in size. When the Maximum Impervious Surface Coverage requirement applies, the Maximum Building Coverage requirement shall not apply.

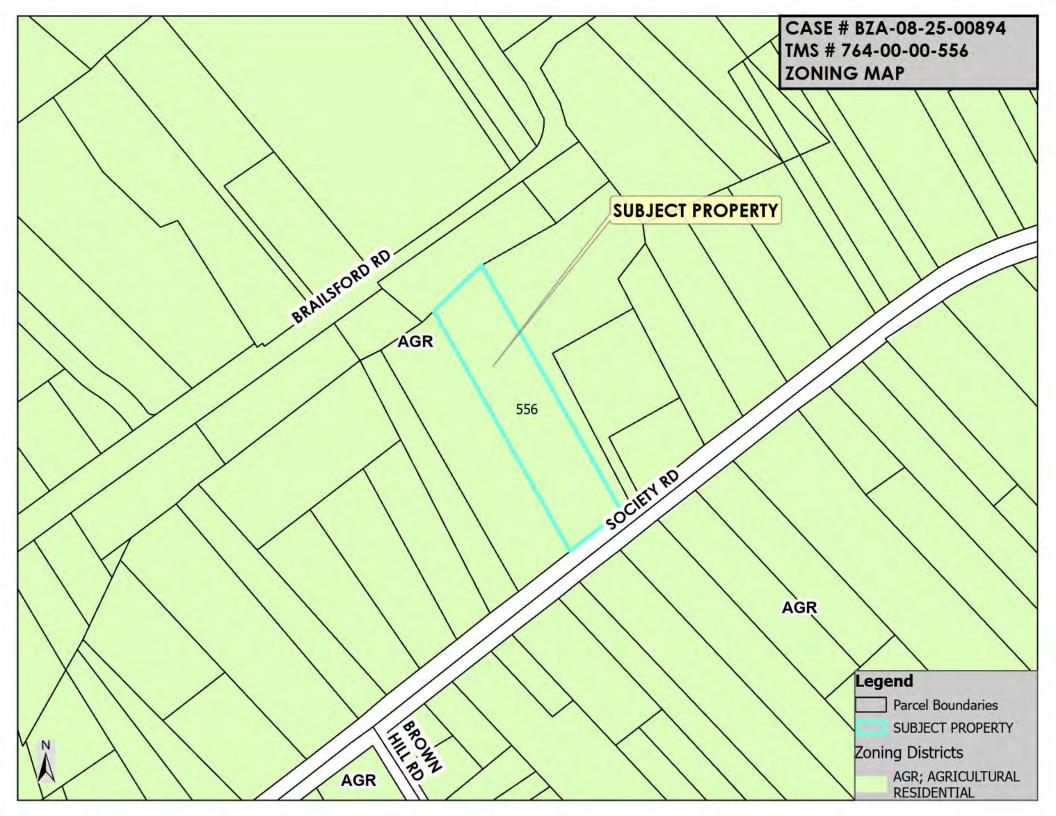
Effective on: 9/10/2017, as amended

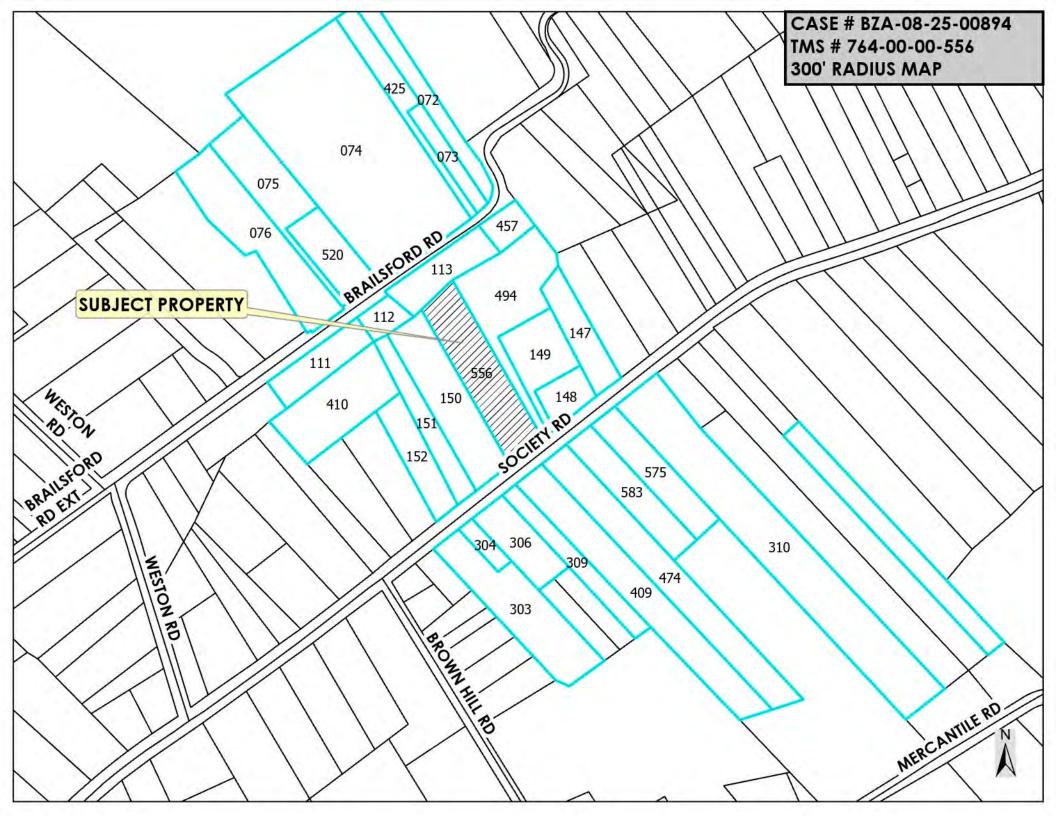
#### Sec. 4.9.4 Other Regulations

Development in the AGR District shall comply with all other applicable regulations of this Ordinance, including the standards of CHAPTER 9, *Development Standards*.

#### Sec. 4.9.5 Settlement Areas

Settlement Areas include small older Crossroads communities, Family lands, typical suburban-style Subdivisions, Frontage Lots along local roads, waterfront Developments, and vacant land that has been subdivided for residential Use but not yet built upon. The criteria for additional Parcels to qualify for inclusion into a "Settlement Area" are as follows:









Case # BZA-08-25-00894
BZA Meeting of October 6, 2025
Subject Property: 532 Society Road — East Area

Proposal: Variance request to reduce the required 50' front/street side setback for an existing unpermitted detached accessory structure (carport).



# Subject Property Unpermitted (24' x 35') Carport





## **Subject Property**

## **Adjacent Property**





## Society Road





#### Staff Review:

The applicants and property owners, Tracey and Frederick Culcleasure, request a variance to reduce the required 50' front/street-side setback by 40.2', resulting in a 9.8' setback, for an existing, unpermitted detached accessory structure (carport) located at 532 Society Road (TMS # 764-00-00-556) in the East Area of Charleston County. The subject property and surrounding properties are located within the Agricultural Residential (AGR) Zoning District.

The 1.99-acre subject property contains a single-family residence and an 18.2' × 30.2' shed that were permitted and constructed in 2020, according to Charleston County records. The property also contains an existing, unpermitted detached accessory structure, a 24.1' × 35.1' carport, which was illegally placed on the property in 2020 or 2021, based on aerial photographs.

#### Applicable ZLDR requirements:

The Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), Chapter 4 Base Zoning Districts, Article 4.9 AGR, Agricultural Residential District, Sec. 4.9.3 Density/Intensity and Dimensional Standards requires a 50' front/street side setback.

Staff conducted a site visit of the subject property on September 16, 2025. Please review the attachments for further information regarding this request.

#### Planning Director Review and Report regarding Approval Criteria of §3.10.6:

§3.10.6(1): There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property;

Response:

There do not appear to be extraordinary or exceptional conditions pertaining to the 1.99-acre subject property. The lot size, shape, and zoning classification are consistent with other properties in the vicinity. The need for a variance arises from the unpermitted placement of a detached accessory structure (carport), which reflects a self-created condition rather than a physical hardship inherent to the property. Therefore, the request may not meet the criteria. However, applicant's letter of intent contends, "We are asking to have a setback adjustment done. When we put the carport on the property, we were not aware that we needed to have a permit. The company Eagle Carports never asked or informed us that we needed a permit."

§3.10.6(2): Response: These conditions do not generally apply to other property in the vicinity; These conditions do not generally apply to other properties in the vicinity. While surrounding properties within the Agricultural Residential (AGR) Zoning District are subject to the same setback requirements, the unpermitted placement of a detached carport without the required approvals is specific to this property and results from actions taken by the property owner rather than conditions inherent to the parcel itself. Therefore, the request may meet this criterion.

§3.10.6(3):

Because of these conditions, the application of this Ordinance to the particular piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property;

Response:

Because of these conditions, the application of the Ordinance to the 1.99-acre subject property would not effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property. The property already contains a single-family residence and a permitted accessory structure (shed), both of which were legally established in 2020. The unpermitted detached carport, placed on the property without required permits, represents a self-created condition rather than a restriction caused by the Ordinance itself. Therefore, the request <u>may not meet</u> this criterion.

§3.10.6(4):

The authorization of a variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be harmed by the granting of the variance;

Response:

The authorization of a variance is not expected to result in substantial detriment to adjacent properties or to the public good, and the character of the Agricultural Residential (AGR) Zoning District would not be harmed by the granting of the variance. The existing detached accessory structure (carport) is residential in nature and consistent with typical accessory uses found within the district. Therefore, the request <u>may meet</u> this criterion.

§3.10.6(5):

The Board of Zoning Appeals shall not grant a variance the effect of which would be to allow the establishment of a use not otherwise permitted in a zoning district, to extend physically a nonconforming use of land, or to change the zoning district boundaries shown on the official zoning map. The fact that property may be utilized more profitably, should a variance be granted, may not be considered grounds for a variance;

Response:

The variance does not allow a use that is not permitted in this zoning district, nor does it extend physically a nonconforming use of land or change the zoning district boundaries. Therefore, the request <u>meets</u> this criterion.

§3.10.6(6): The need for the variance is not the result of the applicant's own actions;

Response: The need for the variance is the **result of the applicant's** own actions. Even though the property owners were unaware of the setback and permit requirements, the hardship arises directly from their own actions (or the **contractor's actions on their behalf).** Therefore, the request <u>may not meet</u>

weren't aware of the setback guidelines."

§3.10.6(7): Granting of the variance does not substantially conflict with the

Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of the Ordinance;

Response: Granting of the variance does not appear to substantially conflict with the

Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of the Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR). The accessory structure is residential in nature and generally consistent with the intent of the Agricultural Residential (AGR) Zoning District to accommodate low-density residential uses and compatible accessory structures. Therefore, the request may

this criterion. However, the applicant's letter of intent contends, "We

meet this criterion.

#### **Board of Zoning Appeals' Action**

According to Article 3.10 Zoning Variances, Section §3.10.6 Approval Criteria of the Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), (adopted July 18, 2006), The Board of Zoning Appeals has the authority to hear and decide appeals for a Zoning Variance when strict application of the provisions of this Ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship (§3.10.6A). A Zoning Variance may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship if the Board of Zoning Appeals makes and explains in writing their findings (§3.10.6B Approval Criteria).

In granting a variance, the Board of Zoning Appeals may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building or structure as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare (§3.10.6C).

The Board of Zoning Appeals may approve, approve with conditions or deny the Case # BZA-08-25-00894 [Variance request to reduce the required 50' front/street-side setback by 40.2', resulting in a 9.8' setback, for an existing, unpermitted detached accessory structure (carport) located at 532 Society Road (TMS # 764-00-00-556) in the East Area of Charleston County] based on the BZA's "Findings of Fact", unless additional information is deemed necessary to make an informed decision. In the event the BZA decides to approve the application, Staff recommends the following condition:

1. The applicant/property owners shall obtain all required zoning and building permits for the existing, unpermitted detached accessory structure (carport).

## ZONING VARIANCE APPLICATION Charleston County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

Tax Map Number(s): 764-0  Current Use of Property: Pccm  Proposed Use of Property: Pcc  Zoning Variance Description:  Applicant Information (Required)	state-	Stome home cleasure +	Trederick Culcleasure    Zap Code:     hone #:     Learner Date: Aug 20, 2025   ngineer, surveyor etc.)
Tax Map Number(s): 764-0  Current Use of Property: Pcm  Proposed Use of Property: Pcm  Zoning Variance Description:  Applicant Information (Required)  Applicant Name (please print): Tcc  Name of Company (if applicable):  Mailing Address:  Ety:  Email Address:  pplicant Signature:	state-	Stome home cleasure +	Top Code: home #:  Lessure Date: Aug 20, 2025
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Control of the Contro			agent to represent me (us) in this application.
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Page 1 of 3

Descript	ion of	Request

Please describe your proposal in detail. You may attach a separate sheet if necessary. Additionally, you may provide any supporting materials that are applicable to your request (photographs, letter of support, etc.)

We are asking to have a setback adjustment done. When we get the curport on the property we were not aware that we needed to have a permit the company eagle curports never asked or informed us that we needed a permit.

### Applicant's response to Article 3.10 Zoning Variances, §3.10.6 Approval Criteria

Zoning Variances may be approved only if the Board of Zoning Appeals finds that the proposed use meets all 7 of the approval oriteria. In evaluating your request, the members of the board will review the answers below as a part of the case record. You may attach a separate sheet if necessary.

Are there extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the subject property? Explain:

ND

2. Do these conditions generally apply to other property in the vicinity or are they unique to the subject property?

sure because we weren't aware Setback guidelines

Because of these extraordinary and exceptional conditions, would the application of this Ordinance to the 3. subject property effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property? Explain:

NO

4. Will the authorization of a variance be a substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good? Will the character of the zoning district be harmed if this variance is granted? Explain:

No it will not have a negative impact or cause any harm to the neighboring property.

The Adjacent property will not be affected

5. The BZA shall not grant a variance the effect of which would be to allow the establishment of a use not otherwise permitted in a zoning district, to extend physically a Nonconforming Use of land, or to change the zoning district boundaries shown on the Official Zoning Map. The fact that property may be utilized more profitably if a Zoning Variance is granted shall not be considered grounds for granting a Zoning Variance. Does the variance request meet this criterion?

Ves it does

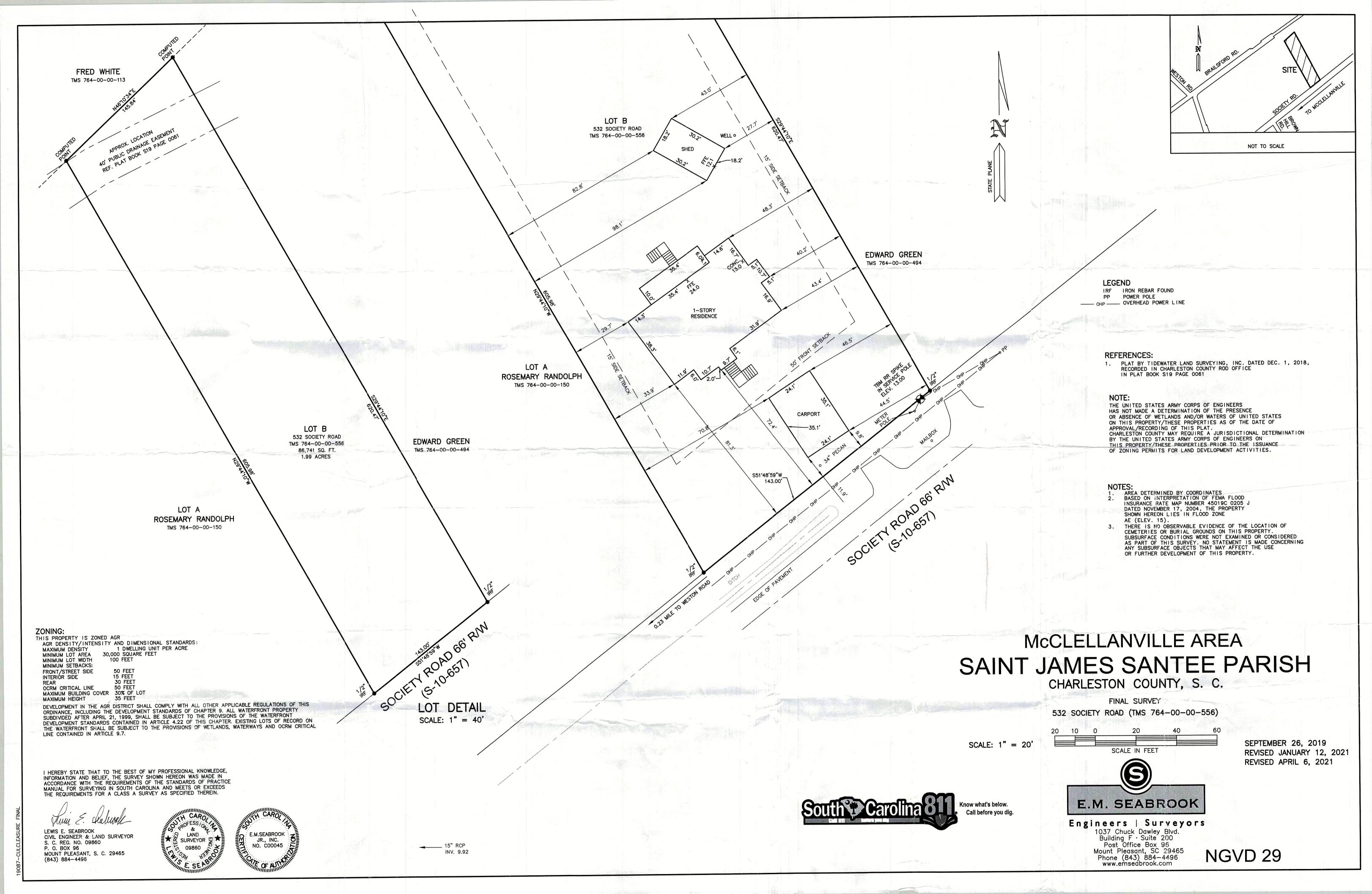
6. Is the need for the variance the result of your own actions? Explain:

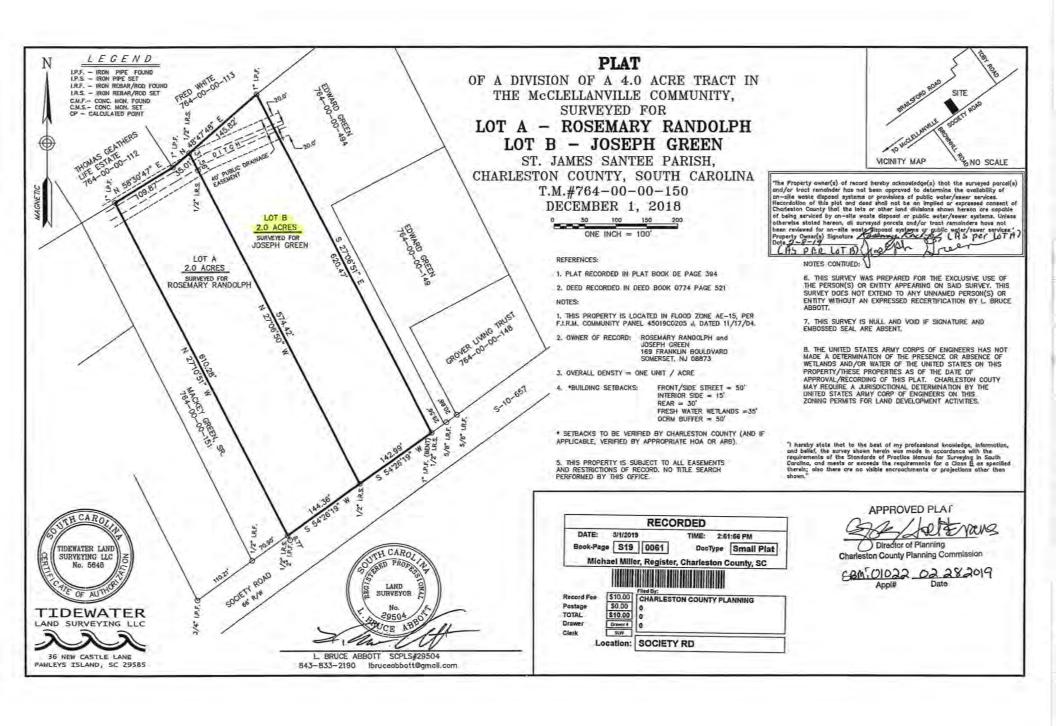
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7. Does the variance substantially conflict with the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of the Ordinance? Explain

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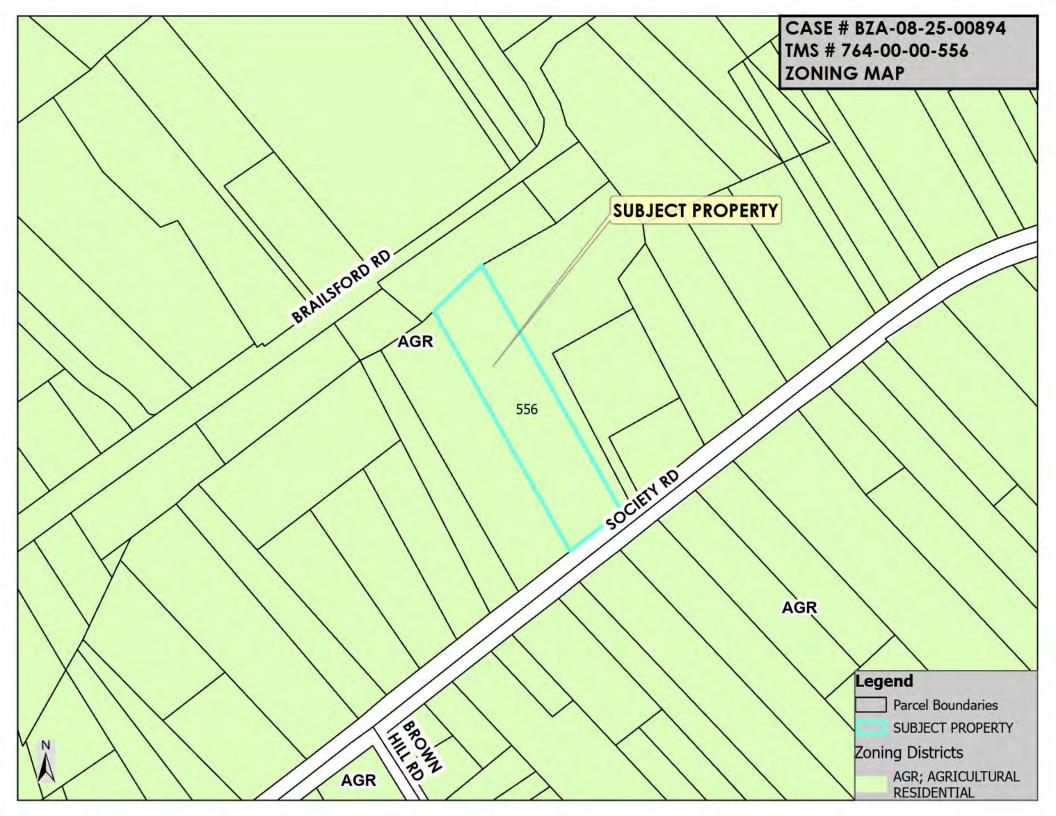
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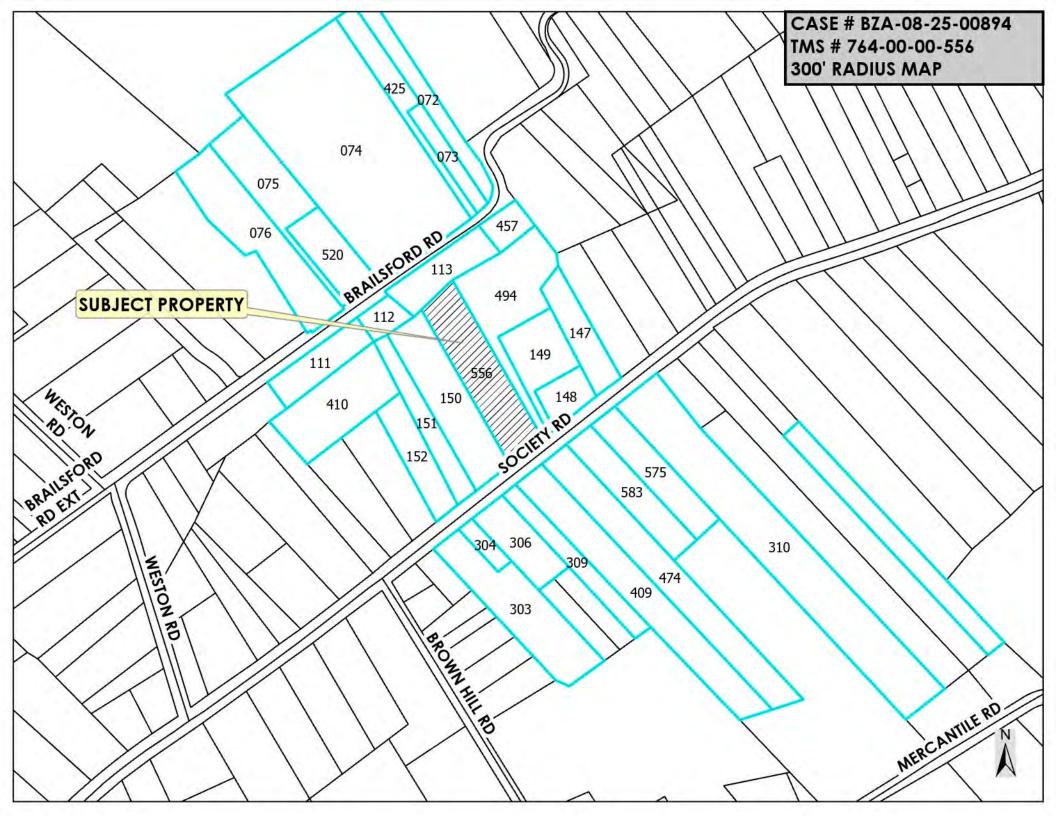
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# Subject Property Unpermitted (24' x 35') Carport





## **Subject Property**

## **Adjacent Property**





## Society Road





#### Staff Review:

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#### Planning Director Review and Report regarding Approval Criteria of §3.10.6:

§3.10.6(1): There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property;

Response:

There do not appear to be extraordinary or exceptional conditions pertaining to the 1.99-acre subject property. The lot size, shape, and zoning classification are consistent with other properties in the vicinity. The need for a variance arises from the unpermitted placement of a detached accessory structure (carport), which reflects a self-created condition rather than a physical hardship inherent to the property. Therefore, the request may not meet the criteria. However, applicant's letter of intent contends, "We are asking to have a setback adjustment done. When we put the carport on the property, we were not aware that we needed to have a permit. The company Eagle Carports never asked or informed us that we needed a permit."

§3.10.6(2): Response:

These conditions do not generally apply to other property in the vicinity; These conditions do not generally apply to other properties in the vicinity. While surrounding properties within the Agricultural Residential (AGR) Zoning District are subject to the same setback requirements, the unpermitted placement of a detached carport without the required approvals is specific to this property and results from actions taken by the property owner rather than conditions inherent to the parcel itself. Therefore, the request may meet this criterion.

§3.10.6(3): Because of these conditions, the application of this Ordinance to the particular piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property;

Because of these conditions, the application of the Ordinance to the 1.99-Response: acre subject property would not effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property. The property already contains a single-family residence and a permitted accessory structure (shed), both of which were legally established in 2020. The unpermitted detached carport, placed on the property without required permits, represents a self-created condition rather than a restriction caused by the Ordinance itself. Therefore, the request <u>may not meet</u> this criterion.

§3.10.6(4): The authorization of a variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the zoning district will not be harmed by the granting of the variance;

The authorization of a variance is not expected to result in substantial Response: detriment to adjacent properties or to the public good, and the character of the Agricultural Residential (AGR) Zoning District would not be harmed by the granting of the variance. The existing detached accessory structure (carport) is residential in nature and consistent with typical accessory uses found within the district. Therefore, the request <u>may meet</u> this criterion.

§3.10.6(5): The Board of Zoning Appeals shall not grant a variance the effect of which would be to allow the establishment of a use not otherwise permitted in a zoning district, to extend physically a nonconforming use of land, or to change the zoning district boundaries shown on the official zoning map. The fact that property may be utilized more profitably, should a variance be granted, may not be considered grounds for a variance:

Response: The variance does not allow a use that is not permitted in this zoning district, nor does it extend physically a nonconforming use of land or change the zoning district boundaries. Therefore, the request meets this criterion.

§3.10.6(6): The need for the variance is not the result of the applicant's own actions; Response: The need for the variance is the **result of the applicant's** own actions. Eve

The need for the variance is the **result of the applicant's** own actions. Even though the property owners were unaware of the setback and permit requirements, the hardship arises directly from their own actions (or the **contractor's actions on their behalf).** Therefore, the request <u>does not meet</u> **this criterion.** However, the applicant's letter of intent contends, "We

weren't aware of the setback guidelines."

§3.10.6(7): Granting of the variance does not substantially conflict with the

Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of the Ordinance;

Response: Granting of the variance does not appear to substantially conflict with the

Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of the Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR). The accessory structure is residential in nature and generally consistent with the intent of the Agricultural Residential (AGR) Zoning District to accommodate low-density residential uses and compatible accessory structures. Therefore, the request may

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#### **Board of Zoning Appeals' Action**

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In granting a variance, the Board of Zoning Appeals may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building or structure as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare (§3.10.6C).

The Board of Zoning Appeals may approve, approve with conditions or deny the Case # BZA-08-25-00894 [Variance request to reduce the required 50' front/street-side setback by 40.2', resulting in a 9.8' setback, for an existing, unpermitted detached accessory structure (carport) located at 532 Society Road (TMS # 764-00-00-556) in the East Area of Charleston County] based on the BZA's "Findings of Fact", unless additional information is deemed necessary to make an informed decision. In the event the BZA decides to approve the application, Staff recommends the following condition:

1. The applicant/property owners shall obtain all required zoning and building permits for the existing, unpermitted detached accessory structure (carport).

BZA Meeting of October 6, 2025 Staff Review, Case # BZA-08-25-00894

## ZONING VARIANCE APPLICATION Charleston County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

Tax Map Number(s): 764-0  Current Use of Property: Pccm  Proposed Use of Property: Pcc  Zoning Variance Description:  Applicant Information (Required)	state-	Stome home cleasure +	Trederick Culcleasure    Zap Code:     hone #:     Learner Date: Aug 20, 2025   ngineer, surveyor etc.)
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nint Representative Name and Name of	Company:		
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esignation of Agent (Complete only	if the Applicant lis	thed above is not the Pro	perty Owner.)
Control of the Contro			agent to represent me (us) in this application.
operty Owner(s) Name(s) (please print):			
me of Company (if applicable, LLC etc.):			
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Page 1 of 3

Descript	ion of	Request

Please describe your proposal in detail. You may attach a separate sheet if necessary. Additionally, you may provide any supporting materials that are applicable to your request (photographs, letter of support, etc.)

We are asking to have a setback adjustment done. When we get the curport on the property we were not aware that we needed to have a permit the company eagle curports never asked or informed us that we needed a permit.

### Applicant's response to Article 3.10 Zoning Variances, §3.10.6 Approval Criteria

Zoning Variances may be approved only if the Board of Zoning Appeals finds that the proposed use meets all 7 of the approval oriteria. In evaluating your request, the members of the board will review the answers below as a part of the case record. You may attach a separate sheet if necessary.

Are there extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the subject property? Explain:

ND

2. Do these conditions generally apply to other property in the vicinity or are they unique to the subject property?

sure because we weren't aware Setback guidelines

Because of these extraordinary and exceptional conditions, would the application of this Ordinance to the 3. subject property effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property? Explain:

NO

4. Will the authorization of a variance be a substantial detriment to adjacent property or to the public good? Will the character of the zoning district be harmed if this variance is granted? Explain:

No it will not have a negative impact or cause any harm to the neighboring property.

The Adjacent property will not be affected

5. The BZA shall not grant a variance the effect of which would be to allow the establishment of a use not otherwise permitted in a zoning district, to extend physically a Nonconforming Use of land, or to change the zoning district boundaries shown on the Official Zoning Map. The fact that property may be utilized more profitably if a Zoning Variance is granted shall not be considered grounds for granting a Zoning Variance. Does the variance request meet this criterion?

Ves it does

6. Is the need for the variance the result of your own actions? Explain:

Hes. We weren't aware of the setback guidelines

7. Does the variance substantially conflict with the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan or the purposes of the Ordinance? Explain

NO

In granting a variance, the Board of Zoning Appeals may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building or structure as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare.

