



ZBA Application – Variance

MILFORD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Street Address: _____

Tax Map / Parcel #: _____

A Variance is a use which is not permitted by the Zoning Ordinance. Approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment is required to allow any use or deviation from the Zoning Ordinance. Please work with the Zoning Administrator to make sure your application is complete and you know what will be required of you at the hearing.

What section of the Zoning Ordinance are you asking to be varied?

Article _____ Section _____

Describe the variance you are requesting under the above section of the Ordinance.

Date Received: _____

Case Number: _____

Application #: _____

Date Complete: _____

Hearing Date: _____

Decision Date: _____

Decision: _____

General Criteria Section 10.01

Explain how the proposal meets the following conditions per New Hampshire RSA 674:33.I

1. Granting the Variance would not be contrary to the public interest because:

2. If the Variance were granted, the spirit of the ordinance would be observed because:

3. Granting the Variance would do substantial justice because:

4. Granting the Variance would not diminish the value of surrounding properties because:

5. Unnecessary Hardship:

This section is the central portion of your argument and is the critical factor that the Zoning Board of Adjustment will need to determine what is unique to your property and not generally applicable to other properties in the area or in town.



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A. Owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area; denial of the Variance would result in unnecessary hardship because:
i. No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property because :
AND
ii. The proposed use is a reasonable one because:
(B) Explain how, if the criteria in paragraph (A) are not established, an unnecessary hardship will be deemed to exist if, and only if, owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area, the property cannot be reasonably used in strict conformance with the Ordinance, and a Variance is therefore necessary to enable a reasonable use of it:
(C) Notwithstanding paragraph (B) above, a Variance may be granted without finding a hardship arising from the terms of the Zoning Ordinance when reasonable accommodations are necessary to allow a person or persons with a recognized physical disability to reside in or regularly use the premises, provided that:
1. The Variance requested under this paragraph shall be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Ordinance because:
In addition, Variances may have extra criteria that must be met. This includes, but is not limited to: 6.03.5 Floodplain Management: The criteria for evaluation is listed in 6.03.5:B General Conditions and the applicable conditions are listed in 6.03.5:C. If your project is covered by this regulation, include your answers to the required criteria as specified in the referenced Section of the Milford Zoning Ordinance as an attachment under Section 3 C. of this application.
ATTACHMENTS – additional information may be needed to help the Zoning Board of Adjustment fully understand your petition. A. A plan of the property and all buildings, drawn to scale, is required. B. A Building Permit Application as needed (to be determined by the building official.) C. Additional explanations, justification, abutters' statements, letters, etc.



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Please read the following information that is designed to help you understand the unique nature of a Variance petition.

Town of Milford Zoning Ordinance can be found at:

[http://planning.milfordnh.info/DOCUMENTS/ZONING%20ORDINANCE%20MASTER%20\(2011\).pdf](http://planning.milfordnh.info/DOCUMENTS/ZONING%20ORDINANCE%20MASTER%20(2011).pdf)

NH RSAs, Chapters 672-677 can be found at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-LXIV.htm>

VARIANCE: A variance is an authorization, which may be granted under special circumstances, to use your property in a way that is not permitted under the strict terms of the zoning ordinance.

If you are applying for a variance, you must first have some form of determination that your proposed use is not permitted without a variance. Most often, this determination is a denial of a building permit. A copy of the determination must be attached to your application.

For a variance to be legally granted, you must show that your proposed use meets all five (5) of the following conditions:

- a. Granting the Variance would not be contrary to the public interest.

A variance would be considered contrary to the public interest if it unduly and to a marked degree violated the basic zoning objectives of the Zoning Ordinance. Will the variance alter the essential character of the neighborhood or threaten the health, safety, or general welfare of the public?

- b. Granting the Variance would observe the spirit of the ordinance.

This requires that the effect of the variance be evaluated in light of the goals of the zoning ordinance.

- c. Substantial justice would be done by granting the Variance.

Substantial justice is done when any loss to the individual is not outweighed by a gain to the general public.

- d. Granting the Variance would not diminish the value of surrounding property.

The applicant, to convince the Zoning Board must explain that granting the variance will not decrease the value of surrounding property.

- e. Denial of the Variance would result in an unnecessary hardship.

The first requirement is that there are special conditions or characteristics applying to the property (such as, but not limited to, exceptional narrowness, shallowness, or shape of the property, or exceptional topographical conditions), that distinguish it from other properties in the area. Because of these special conditions, no fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property. And finally, the proposed use must be a reasonable one. You must explain what makes the property unique and why a "hardship" would be created if the terms of the ordinance were strictly applied.

In lieu of a claim of unnecessary hardship, the Variance may be granted when reasonable accommodations are necessary to allow a person or persons with a recognized physical disability to reside in or regularly use the premises, provided that any Variance sought shall be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the zoning ordinance and the Variance shall survive only so long as the particular person or persons have a continuing need to use the premises. To meet this criterion, explain the accommodations that are necessary and identify the person or persons and provide evidence of their disability.