

VALDOSTA-LOWNDES COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Staff Report - MEETING DATE: June 6, 2017

VAR-2017-07 Stacy Rountree 6119 Shiloh Road, Hahira, Georgia

(*Note:* This request was tabled from the ZBA's May meeting in order to allow the applicant to consider options). This application is a request for a Variance to the Minimum Building Setback requirement for Accessory Structures. The subject property consists of ~14 acres and is located at 6119 Shiloh Road, Hahira, Georgia, in an E-A (Estate Agricultural, 5 acres) zoning district.

Table 5.02.01(D)(8) provides for Setback Standards for Accessory Structures as outlined below:

	Standard
 Setbacks for accessory buildings in residential zoning districts From side property lines From rear property lines Side or rear property lines on a corner lot 	 Same setback as required for the principal structure 10 feet Setback from the centerline a distance equal to 75 percent of the front yard setback
Setbacks for accessory buildings in non-residential zoning districts	Same as front, side, and rear Setbacks for the principal structure

Table 5.02.01(D)(8). Setback Standards for Accessory structures.

In this case, there are 3 existing accessory structures that do not meet the minimum side yard building setback requirement – these structures have been highlighted on the attached site plan. These structures were constructed several years ago and after the adoption of the ULDC ('2006). The minimum side yard building setback requirement for the E-A zoning district is twenty (20') feet. The applicant is seeking a Variance so that they may keep the accessory structures as depicted on the survey. <u>Therefore, a Variance of 14.5 feet is being requested for the structure identified as a "barn"; a Variance of 9.5 feet is being requested for the structure identified as a "shed".</u>

The subject property is located in an Agricultural/Forestry Character Area on the Future Development Map of the Comprehensive Plan. This character depiction is for lands in open and/or cultivated states or sparsely settled. Moderately and high-density residential subdivisions are not encouraged and should be severely limited.

The TRC has reviewed this request and ultimately had differing opinions as reflected in the table below. Planning and Zoning made a recommendation to approve a ten (10') feet Variance for all of the accessory

structures that do not comply with the current standards. Overall, the TRC is ultimately recommending approval for the Variance as presented. Considerations were given to the sufficiency of the existing building setback distance from the established property line. As follows:

Division with Recommendation	Planning	Zoning	Engineering	Utilities
	Approval of	Approval of	Approval as	Approval
	10'	10'	presented	as
	Variance	Variance		presented
	Board of	Fire/Rescue	Inspections	Moody
	Health			AFB
	Approval as	Approval as	Approval as	n/a
	presented	presented	presented	
Recommended	N/A			
Conditions with				
(Source)				
Other Comments	N/A			
with (Source)				

The ULDC provides that variances may be granted upon a finding by the ZBA that one the following conditions have been met:

- A. There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property in question because of its size, shape, or topography;
- B. Such conditions are peculiar to the particular piece of property involved;
- C. The application of this ULDC to this particular piece of property would create an unnecessary hardship;
- D. Relief, if granted, will not cause substantial detriment to the public good or impair the purposes and intent of this ULDC;
- E. A literal interpretation of the provisions of this ULDC would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties of the zoning district in which the property is located;
- F. Granting the variance requested will not confer upon the property of the applicant any special privileges that are denied to other properties of the zoning district in which the applicant's property is located;
- G. The requested variance will be in harmony with the purpose and intent of this ULDC and will not be incompatible with the neighborhood or to the general public welfare;
- H. The special circumstances are not the result of the actions of the applicant;
- *I.* The variance requested is the minimum variance that will make possible the legal use of the land or structure;
- J. The variance is not a request to permit a use of land or structures which are not permitted by right in the zoning district involved;
- K. The extension of said nonconforming use will not further injure a permitted use on the subject property or on adjacent property
- L. The design, construction, and character of the nonconformance is not suitable for uses permitted in a district in which the nonconformance is situated; and
- M. The nonconforming use is similar to the prior nonconforming use.

