

City of Columbus
Public Hearing – 5107 190th Lane NE Variance (PC-14-102)
(James and Leoda Swanson – owners)

April 2, 2014

The April 2, 2014 Public Hearing to receive testimony regarding the request for a variance at 5107 190th Lane NE, Columbus, MN was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members Andy Anderson, Mark Daly, Pam Wolowski, Jesse Preiner, Jody Krebs, and Barbara Hvass; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, and Recording Secretary Karen Boland.

Also in attendance were City Council members Dennis Peterson, and Bill Krebs; James and Leoda Swanson, Cheryl Nelson, Tom Carlisle, Perry Wagamon, and Frank Wagamon.

Sternberg: Now we'll have Public Hearing and discussion on address 5107 190th Lane NE, variance application, pages 1 through 9 in our packet. And at this time I'll ask the secretary to read the notice.

Notice was read at this time.

Sternberg: Thank you. At this time I'd like to ask the applicants to come forward.

Leoda Swanson: Do you want us here?

Sternberg: Yes. Right there.

James Swanson: May we be seated?

Sternberg: Yes, you may. And then I'd like to ask that you please state your name and addresses for the record.

J. Swanson: James A. Swanson. 5117 190th Lane Northeast, Columbus.

Sternberg: And what is it that you're asking of us this evening?

J. Swanson: Well, we have submitted a plan for a septic system, uh, to the address next door, which is 5107. We are adding a bathroom to a cabin that formerly did not have running water. It was a purchase we made last summer. And, we're hoping to modernize it for the use of our family, um, just as a recreational abode in the summertime.

Sternberg: Okay.

Mursko: In your agenda packets you do have on page 5 a diagram of 5107 190th Lane, and, also, you have a memo from the building official talking about why the variance is needed in this particular case. And the variance is for a deviation from the 12 inches of native soil from the ground surface to mottled soil to, I believe it's nine inches that they're asking for.

J. Swanson: That's what I understand.

Preiner: Mr. Chair. Elizabeth, so the, the outcome of this is that the mound then will just be three inches low... less high?

Mursko: The, um...correct. In other words, they won't have 12 inches of undisturbed soil; they'll only have nine. But, they'll still have the 36 inches of required, um, -- in the mound system, where you have two feet of sand or whatever it is that they put in the mound system -- that will meet the requirement. It's just the, they won't have 12 inches of undisturbed soil, or native soil. And, in this particular case, we are talking about a lot on Coon Lake. I think we've all looked at those lots before. They're long and narrow, and so, there really isn't another opportunity for them to put the septic in an alternate location.

Krebs: Mr. Chair, just to clarify, just on the last paragraph of Mr. Ohman's letter, it does state that it would be, um, safe and adequate for the, what this system would provide.

Sternberg: Noted.

Krebs: Thank you.

Wolowski: Mr. Chair. It says it 'should', 'should safely'...do we have any concerns there, on that last paragraph? 'Should safely...' Does that mean there's any doubt on that?

J. Swanson: I can only go by what our septic designer has come up with, and Leon's recommendation.

Wolowski: Okay.

J. Swanson: I'm not a technical person in that area, so it's up to those two.

Wolowski: So Leon is your builder?

Mursko: Leon is our Building Official.

Wolowski: Okay, I didn't know who that was. Okay. So, he feels it's okay then?

Mursko: He's looked at the design. He's looked at all of the criteria. In this particular case, it should work. Until you're actually... it's in and everything else, you're not going to really know for sure. But, from everything he saw in the application, from his experience, he feels that he can make a recommendation to support the variance request.

Wolowski: Perfect. Thank you.

Sternberg: Any other questions? Well then, at this time I'd like to close the meeting with the right to reopen

Mursko: Mr. Chairperson, you can certainly do that, but you just have to ask to make sure that no one else from the public wants to speak.

Sternberg: Yes. Okay, I'm going to reopen the meeting. Is there anybody here for...anybody from the public have any comments on the variance request? Okay, at this time, I will close the meeting with the right to reopen.

Hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary