

City of Columbus
Public Hearing – 9458 189th Avenue NE Variance Application (PC-16-105)
(Nathan and Kristin Whiting – applicants and owners)
March 2, 2016

The March 2, 2016 Public Hearing to receive testimony regarding the request for a variance at 9458 189th Avenue N.E., Columbus, Minnesota was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members Jim Watson, Pam Wolowski, Jesse Preiner, and Jody Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, Planner Dean Johnson, and Recording Secretary Karen Boland.

Also in attendance were City Council members Denny Peterson and Bill Krebs; Jim Faulkner, Aaron Lindeman, Alyssa Reimers of SMJ International, Mike Schwartz, Kevin Dunaway, Nathan and Kristin Whiting, Curt Nelson, Steve Matthews, Kristina Matthews, Pat Preiner and Mary Preiner.

Sternberg: Next we're going to have a Public Hearing and discussion for 9458 189th Avenue Northeast variance request, pages 1-17. And, at this time, I'd like to ask the recording secretary to read the notice as published.

Notice was read at this time by the recording secretary.

Sternberg: Thank you, Karen. And then if – please come forward. State your name and address for the record.

N. Whiting: I'm Nathan Whiting, 9458 189th Avenue.

Sternberg: Thank you.

K. Whiting: I'm Kristin Whiting.

Sternberg: Thank you. And if you could just give us a little background on what it is that you're asking this evening.

Mursko: Have a seat.

N. Whiting: Uh, basically, uh, we want to put up a pole building, and we're trying to set a variance because of the, uh, wetlands. We're trying to stay out of the wetlands, and, um, the size of shed that we're trying to put up, we would like to get a variance of, uh, ten feet instead of twenty feet, just so we can stay away from the wetland stuff.

Mursko: Nathan, maybe you can take them through one of, whichever you tell me is the best site plan, just so the Planning Commission and attendees can get a feel of . . .

N. Whiting: Yup. Basically, we have five acres of property, and I think less, about ten percent of it's dry land, buildable land. And just the size of shed that we're putting up, they gave us basically two options to put in. And, um, I think that would be a 30-foot-wide pole building, without eaves and everything; where we would like to put up a 40-foot-wide. Um, so then, to stay out of the wetlands—the blue area there—we would try to shove the shed a little bit to the east in that green building setback. And that, that's the property line.

Sternberg: So is that green showing the 20-foot setback or . . . ?

N. and K. Whiting: That's the 20-foot setback.

K. Whiting: So we're asking for ten of it, just so we can stay out of the wetland part of it.

Sternberg: Okay. And you said that option—I think it was option A is a 30-foot building? Or that's the 40-foot building?

N. Whiting: Nope. We originally, that was, that's what we were originally gonna go with, but now we want to put up a 40-foot. And, um, basically, with eaves and everything we would be too close to the wetlands, so we wouldn't be able to erect it. So, to do a 40-foot with the eaves, the overhang, we would have to move the shed over a little bit to make it fit.

Sternberg: So you need the ten, the ten feet of the setback. Okay.

K. Whiting: 'Cause we really only have about 16% left of buildable land. And it's not an actual rectangle shape. And so, in the perfect world that would be the best place to put it. And so, um, where we're gonna, that's where we're asking it, so that's where it would look like as on the, about ten foot into it. And so, we're, I mean . . .

N. Whiting: If you look at the past, the previous, um, it shows the option A is 50 feet from behind the house. It doesn't really give us an option to put a door. I, I'm a, uh, professional fisherman, and part of the reason I want a shed is to keep my truck and my boat. And there's really no way to put a driveway to try to access or get into the shed on the option A, and even with option B, to try to put a driveway and still cut angles and try to get it in, really doesn't work out, so . . .

Sternberg: Right.

N. Whiting: That's why we're going to try to get the variance so we can use the shed.

Sternberg: Right. And I seen in the, uh, paperwork here that your neighbor, the neighbor is okay with this?

N. Whiting: Yup. Mike Weber.

K. Whiting: Yup.

Sternberg: Mike Weber? Okay.

K. Whiting: And we got a call from, uh—Mike was supposed to be coming. His wife is actually in the hospital right now, and so, um, he's, he is all for it, as well as our other neighbors, um, the Whitings on the other side of us, and then, Phil Nelson actually called us—who lives across the street—he's the one that also said, 'It's all good, and let us know what you need.' So, our neighbors seem to be . . .

N. Whiting: Yeah. So Mike, Mike said he's perfectly happy. We showed him everything. We've been keeping in contact all, through all the steps of everything.

Sternberg: Okay. Well, any questions?

Preiner: Nope.

Sternberg: Okay, then at this time, I'm going to open the hearing . . . Oh, you have a question? Go ahead.

Krebs: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, can we just make a note that, um, on the application it says Forest Lake, but the City needs to make that Columbus, please, before we start the . . .?

Wolowski: Yeah. Yeah.

Sternberg: Good job, Jody. Okay, so then at this time, I'm gonna open the hearing to the public. If you guys would like (referring to the Whitings) you can probably just go back and have a seat.

N. Whiting: Sure. Thanks.

Sternberg: Is there anyone here from the public that wants to speak on the matter? Anyone from the public? Okay, at this time I'm going to close the hearing with the right to reopen if it becomes necessary.

Hearing closed at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary