

Rcvd 2/3/2023
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Letter of Intent for Area Variance

John Davis & Alanna Thompson

4 Forest Grove CT.

Penfield, NY 14526
(520) -360-1331

Dear Zoning Board Members,

We are applying for an area variance to allow us to install a 5' 6" (maximum post height) fence in our front yard to protect our garden from deer. The newly adopted code has reduced the maximum front yard fence from a height of 6 feet, to 3 feet. The old code required a setback of 20ft for fence heights over 3 feet. We propose a 20-foot setback for our project, with a fence panel height of 5 feet. The total fence length would be approximately 130 linear feet (encompassing the yard space immediately in front of our house).

Over the last summer we attempted several methods to keep deer out of our front yard garden. A mix of motion activated sprinklers, deer netting, soap, sprays, and audible deterrents were tested, and only a physical barrier such as deer netting supported by posts appears to keep the deer at bay. We would like to install a more attractive and permanent solution with our proposed 5-foot fence. If it were possible, we would have put the garden in our backyard. However, our back and side yard are too shaded to grow vegetables and other sun loving plants.

The fence would be constructed from black locust lumber (highly rot resistant, and not chemically treated) and a lattice or mesh panel. A 2d sketch example of a fence panel has been attached to our appeal. The goal of the mesh/lattice material is to avoid a solid fence appearance, while also allowing for plants to grow and vine up the fence panel. We will also be planting deer resistant native plants, shrubs, and flowers in front of and around the fence to help it blend into the landscape. This will accomplish 2 goals. First it will reduce the visual appearance of the fence and naturalize it into the environment and surrounding neighborhood, and second, it will provide an additional buffer to further prevent deer from potentially jumping the 5-foot fence panels. Our neighborhood consists of 6 houses, with a healthy mix of mature trees and vegetation. The proposed front yard garden and fence would presumably blend in nicely with the existing neighborhood. From an environmental standpoint, our goal is to provide a wealth of native vegetation to support the local flora and fauna (especially birds). In addition, we will be replacing grass with plants that are less susceptible to drought, reducing the need for watering the front lawn in the summertime.

Considering that the newly adopted code allows for a fence height up to 3-feet, our hope is that the proposed additional 2 feet of height is not considered a "substantial" deviation from code. In addition, the planting of various plants in and around the fence should help reduce the apparent height of the proposed fence.

We have attached a letter signed by neighbors in our 6-house neighborhood, with the goal of reassuring the Board that our plans have been reviewed and approved by our immediate neighbors.

Sincerely,

John Davis

Alanna Thompson

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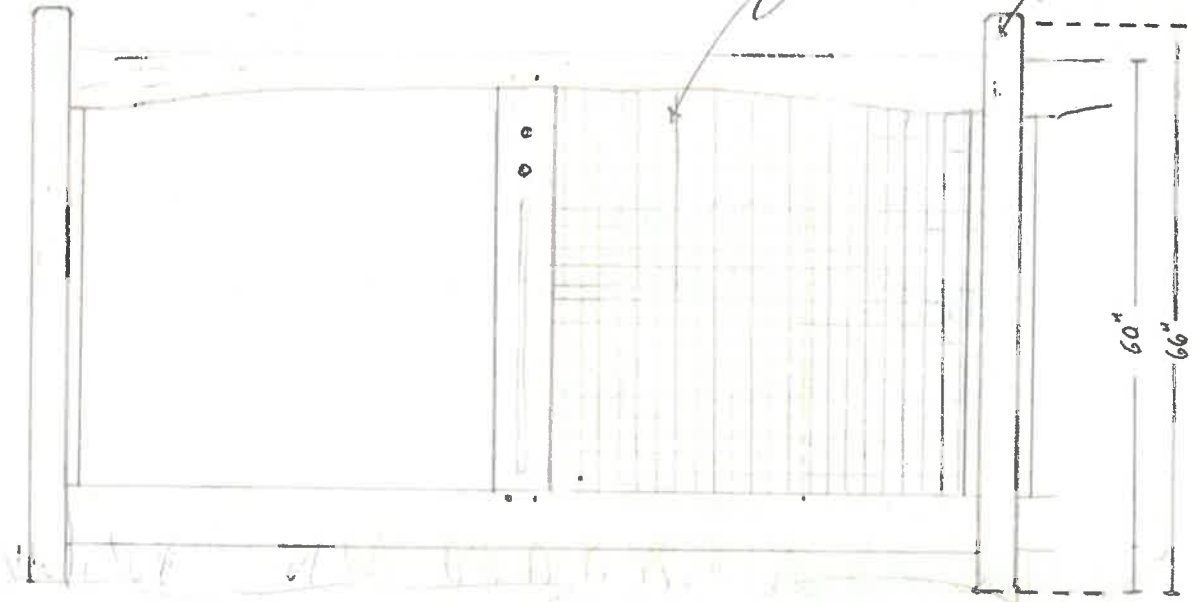
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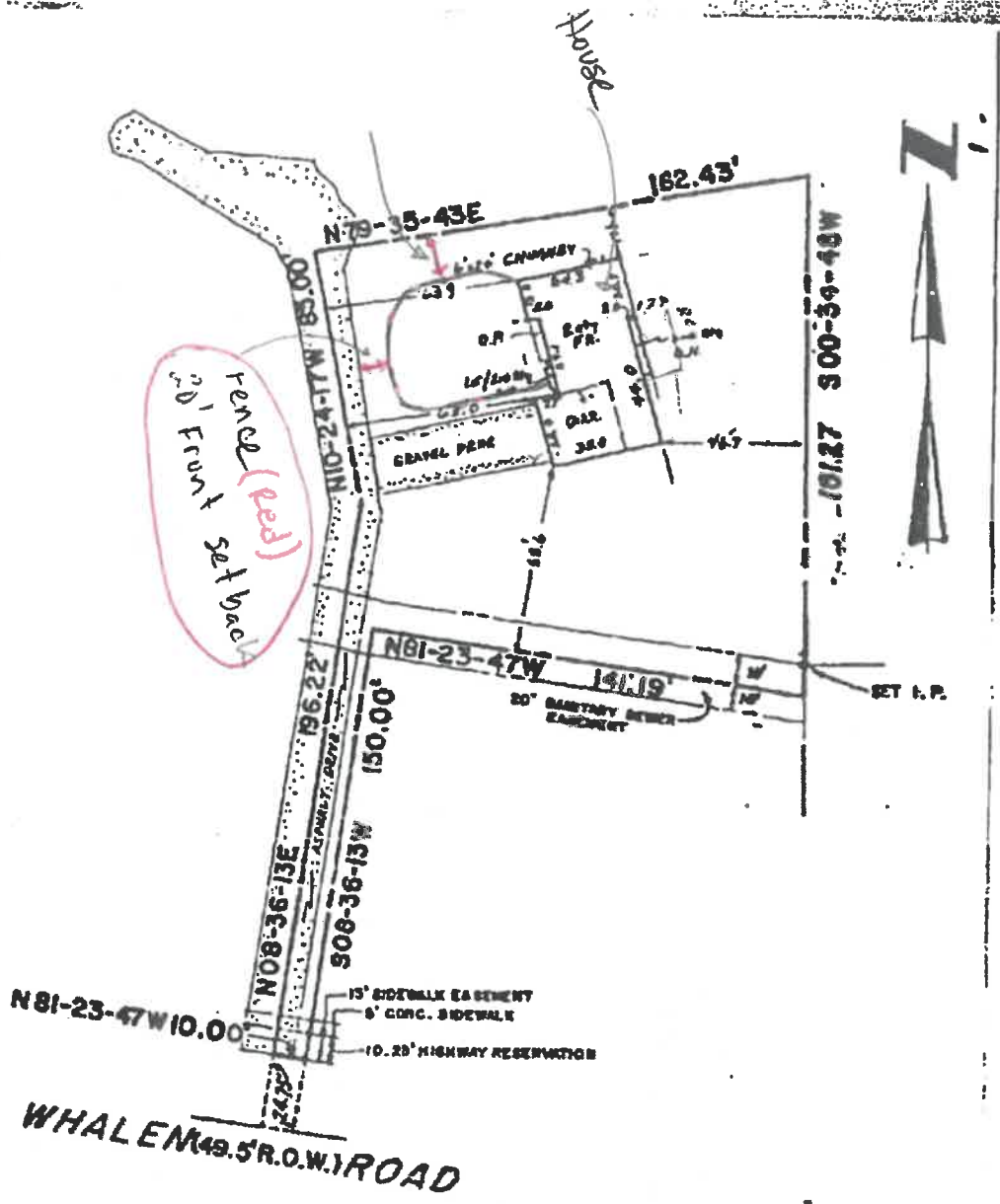
Fence Perimeter:
~ 40' x 50' x 50' curved ⇒ 140 linear feet
Dining Front 5-year more

Fence Panel
- Lattice or Metal Mesh

Wood
construction

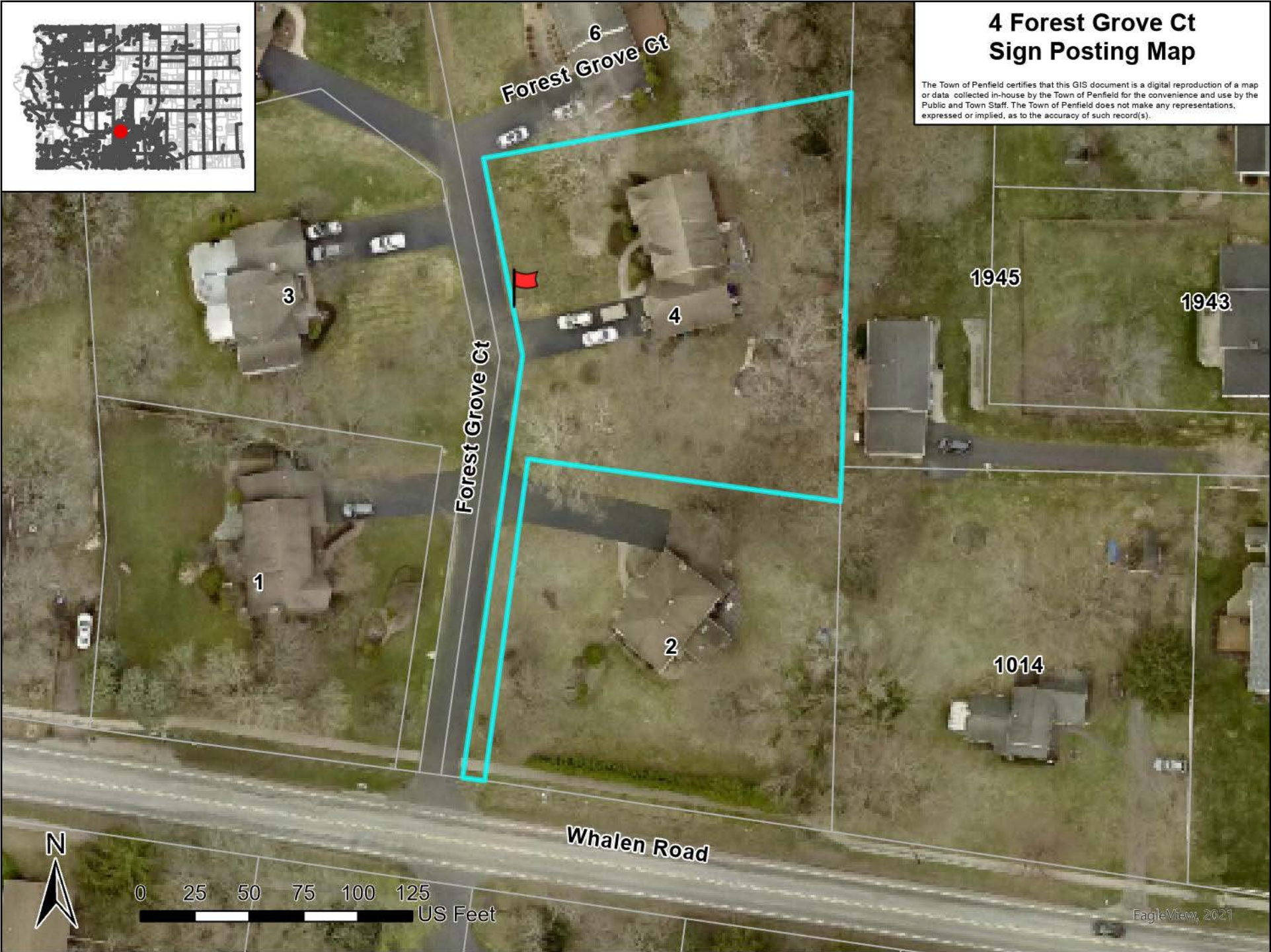


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4 Forest Grove Ct Sign Posting Map

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