

Township of Neptune Municipal Offices
Mayor James Manning, Jr.
P.O. Box 1125
Neptune NJ 07754-1125

August 27th, 2007

Mr. Mayor,

Your Board of Adjustment has *infuriated* many of the citizens of the Hamilton section of the township by approving a car lube / car wash on lot 2, block 10015. This property is located between Highway 33 and Old Corlies Avenue. Presently, an 11 room historic house occupies this lot, a lot which should never have been zoned anything other than residential. The owner of this property, whomever it may be, should have been denied any proposal that would require demolition of the house. By so doing, the BOA would have forced the property owner to seek other venues to accomplish whatever his/her objectives might be - but maintain the house and the character of the community. In approving the car wash / car lube development, the BOA had to grant five variances:

1. The proposed use is not permitted in the zone.
2. The lot is smaller than required in the zone.
3. The lot frontage is less than required.
4. The lot depth is less than required.
5. Parking in the front yard is not permitted.

The BOA had sufficient basis to deny the application - they certainly had support from the people of Hamilton to do so. The fact that they did not, demonstrates their lack of concern for the interests of the people of Hamilton. If any one of us were Mayor, we'd fire everyone of them with the exception of Mr. DeMaria and Mr. Eichenour who voted against the application.

And further, in approving the application, the BOA is allowing the paving of the lot and creating a surface drainage problem where there never was one. To deal with this the applicant is being required to put in a storm drain from their property some 600 feet to an existing storm drain at the head of Gully

Road. Construction of this drain will require tearing up the front lawns of numerous properties along its route, one of which is the lawn of the oldest house in the township. This is adding injury to insult to the residents of the area. The fact that this secondary impact is necessitated by the project should have been enough basis for it to be denied.

Our impression of the BOA is that they are more interested in adjusting a proposal so they can approve it than they are in the impact the proposal will have upon the community. They may be experts on deciding where a homeowner can use lattice on his / her home in Ocean Grove, but they don't know a thing about the more rural areas of the township.

There are a number of problems with the proposed plan, with safety perhaps being the most egregious, that should be given more attention by the BOA before rendering a final decision.

If the Board of Adjustment had acknowledged the original ordinance and not issued variances for this application, the burden of fighting this atrocity would not have been placed upon the community.

If there is any way that you can reverse the BOA'S approval of this project, we strongly urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Residents of the Hamilton Section of the Township and Concerned Citizens

Reply to:

The Residents of Hamilton
c/o Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Eldridge
1012 Old Corlies Avenue
Neptune, NJ 07753