

From: Benjamin Traverse <btraverse@burlingtonvt.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 3:32 PM
To: Scott Gustin <SGustin@burlingtonvt.gov>
Cc: Ryan Morrison <rmorrison@burlingtonvt.gov>
Subject: 203 South Cove

Dear Scott and Ryan,

I write to respectfully request that your office withdraw its request for reconsideration of the DRB's recent decision on 203 South Cove Road. I'm mindful of the good reasons behind the separation between the DRB and City Council processes, and I generally hope to stay clear of advocating for any particular outcome on matters before your office or the DRB.

I am prompted to write here, however, as I firmly believe the applicants should be allowed to rely on the outcome of the DRB vote at its July 5 meeting. Having attended the meeting, my impression was that the DRB appropriately considered all relevant issues of fact and law. I understand the applicants and their builders have worked hard to keep their proposed renovation within the footprint of the existing structure. From my perspective, it was well within the DRB's right to determine that the applicants' plans will not result in any meaningful extension of a non-complying situation.

I understand the regulations around variances are exacting and, while each application should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, I certainly respect concerns around the proverbial slippery slope on variances. We should also be mindful, though, about avoiding any precedent around the City seeking reconsideration of DRB decisions. Particularly with projects like that here, where neighbors unanimously approve of the proposal, applicants should be able to rely on and start making plans based off decisions reached through DRB deliberation.

I am also concerned that a too strict application of the CDO will run against the grain of the City's stated public policy interest in ensuring Burlington is a city where young families can stay and grow. While I recognize this is not a relevant consideration under the CDO, I believe it is an important point to remember when choosing whether to challenge a defensible DRB decision.

Thank you for your consideration of this note. As always, I greatly appreciate the work you are doing for our City and its residents. If appropriate, feel free to add this note to the DRB agenda.

Best regards,

Ben Traverse



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