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By City Clerk at 9:25 am, Apr 10, 2026

MINUTES of the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING
THURSDAY, January 22, 2026

(Posted in accordance with the provisions of MGL Ch. 39, Sec. 23A, as amended)

City Hall – 7:00 p.m.

62 Friend St.

Amesbury, MA 01913

Attendance: Sharon McDermot (Chair), Charles Bassler, Donna Collins, Dave Haraske, John Rogers, Kendra Amaral

Absent:

Also in attendance: Community Development Coordinator Becky Frey

Call to Order

Chair Sharon McDermot called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call/Attendance

Chair Sharon McDermot took roll call.

Minutes – 11-20-25

Donna Collins motioned to approve the minutes from 11-20-25. Seconded by Dave Haraske. The motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

Chair

Topics for Discussion:

New Public Hearings:

1. 68A Fern Avenue – Variance

Chair Sharon McDermot read the legal notice into the record, and noted that Charles, Donna, Dave, John and herself would be voting on this matter.

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Michael Flannagan commented that they were proposing to build the house as approved in the Planning Board Decision. This variance was approved a few years ago, but COVID delayed the project. The variance expired. The other permits are in place and everything is done. They are reapplying to get a new variance. Nothing has changed from the original proposal. They are short by 15 inches on the frontage.

Donna Collins clarified that it was for a single-family home. Michael Flannagan confirmed that was correct.

Chair Sharon McDermot opened the public comment.

Matt Einsen of 64 Fern Ave. questioned if that was 15 inches short of the street, and if this lot was the one that abutted them. Michael Flannagan responded that it was from the width of the lot, and confirmed it was the one closest to them.

Sharon McDermot commented there were not more questions from the audience or the Board.

Donna Collins motioned to close the public hearing for 68A Fern Ave. Seconded by John Rogers. The motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

Chair Sharon McDermot commented that the application was for a single-family home and had a variance approved in 2018. Donna Collins noted nothing has changed since the Board voted for it last time. Donna Collins confirmed she would vote for it again. Dave Haraske commented that he voted no last time but was in favor of the project. It is only a foot and a half. There are no changes to the proposal.

John Rogers had no comments.

Charles Basler had no comments.

Chair Sharon McDermot reviewed the summary of findings. The lot shape is the hardship. The proposal does not generally affect the neighborhood. There is no detriment to the public good. It does not derogate from the bylaw.

Donna Collins motioned to, given the findings, approve the variance request for 68A Fern Ave. Seconded by Charles Basler. The motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

Adjourn

Donna Collins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 pm. Seconded by John Rogers. The motion passed unanimously by a 5-0 vote.