

**City of Sanford  
Zoning Board of Appeals**

The Sanford Zoning Board of Appeals scheduled a meeting on Monday, August 26, 2013 at the Sanford City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mark Patterson at 7:13 P.M

Members Present: Mark Patterson  
Naila Aslam-Khan  
Jane Bowker  
Joel Plourde

Members Absent with Notice: James Wendel, Kimberly Stewart

Members Absent without Notice: Paul Demers

Representing Code Enforcement: Shirley S. Sheesley, Chief Code Enforcement Officer.  
Jamie Cole, Code Enforcement Officer.

Applicant: Brenda Sweet Bryant for George Sweet.

The ZBA meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes were approved for June 10, 2013.

The chairperson announced the disability variance for George Sweet represented by his daughter, Brenda Sweet Bryant of Kennebunk, Maine.

With no conflict of interest from the appellant or the ZBA board members, the Chairperson called upon the Code Enforcement Officer to give a brief statement as to what gave rise to the appeal and the basis for it.

Shirley gave basis for the appeal on the denial of a building permit for a handicap ramp which is 62 feet from the high water line. The minimum setback from the high water line is 75 feet. It does not meet the shoreland setback in the shoreland zone.

The appellant, daughter of George Sweet, confirmed to the Chairperson that this was a disability variance. She explained that her father needed the ramp in order to have access both in and out of their home. He has cancer and uses a walker to move around the home and requires a wheelchair when leaving his home for doctor appointment every two weeks.

“Is this going to be a ramp with railings”? (asked by the Chairperson to the appellant).

The appellant stated that it would be a 4' x 10' platform leading from the home to the driveway.

When asked if it would be removed when it was no longer needed, she answered "yes". Along with her dad, her mom also has Parkinson's and would also welcome the use of the ramp.

When asked if there were any other exits from the home, the appellant indicated there were two other exits but they were closer to the water with more stairs.

Joel asked for confirmation that the Code Officer could not grant the variance without the Board's approval.

When Shirley was questioned as to the slope of the ramp, she replied that she was only looking at the setback requirement at this time.

With no further questions from the Board, the Code Enforcement Officer was asked to give her rebuttal to the ramp.

Mark asked the appellant if she knew how far it was from her parents' home to the street. She replied that she wasn't sure but figured somewhere around 50 feet or so. His concern was in granting a variance he wanted to ensure that the variance was properly stated.

Discussion between the Board and Code Enforcement as to the possible verbiage, should the variance be granted...

Shirley confirmed that a copy of the denial was sent to the DEP. They responded by stating they would approve a disability variance and when the ramp is no longer required they must agree to have it removed. State law does allow for a disability variance.

The Board closed the meeting to deliberate. You can view the Findings of Fact dated August 26, 2013 included in the minutes.

A motion was made by Joel to table the By-laws. The motion was seconded by Naila and the Board voted to table the By-laws until the next meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn by Naila and seconded by Joel. The Board voted to adjourn at 7:53 P.M.

**Dated: August 26, 2013**

**Brenda Sweet Bryant for George Sweet**