Interoffice Memorandum





August 11, 2020

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings

-AND-

Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Director

Planning, Environmental, and Development

Services Department

CONTACT PERSON: David Jones, P.E., CEP, Manager

Environmental Protection Division

(407) 836-1406

SUBJECT: September 22, 2020 — Consent Item

Environmental Protection Commission Recommendation for Request for Waiver and After the East Variance for Scott

Request for Waiver and After-the-Fact Variance for Scott

Phillips Dock Construction Permit BD-20-01-008

The applicant, Scott Phillips, is requesting approval of a waiver to Orange County Code (Code), Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-342(b) (terminal platform size) and approval of an after-the-fact variance to Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-342(d) (floor elevation). The project site is located at 3907 Orange Lake Drive, Orlando, Florida 32817. The Parcel ID number is 12-22-30-4511-00-120. The subject property is located on Lake Irma in District 5.

On April 28, 2017, the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) issued BD Permit #BD-16-07-080 to the previous owner of the subject property. According to aerial photos, the dock was constructed sometime between the date of permit issuance and January 2018; however, EPD was not provided a Notice of Construction or an as-built survey for the dock by the previous owner. On April 20, 2018, the applicant purchased the property, and on September 7, 2019, EPD received the required as-built survey. Upon review of the survey, it was determined that the floor elevation did not meet the minimum requirements of Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-342(d) [minimum one foot above the Normal High Water Elevation (NHWE)], or as approved on the plans in BD Permit #BD-16-07-080.

On January 29, 2020, EPD received a new Application for Dock Construction from the applicant, accompanied by Applications for Waiver and after-the-fact Variance. The applicant is requesting to increase the terminal platform size to 1,104 square feet. The maximum allowed terminal platform size for the subject parcel is 874 square feet, and the maximum allowed terminal platform size for any lot per Code is 1,000 square feet; therefore, a waiver to Section 15-342(b) is required. Additionally, the applicant is requesting to keep the dock elevation as constructed, which is 0.06 foot above the NHWE in lieu of the minimum of one foot above the NHWE as required per Code.

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In order to address safety and navigability concerns stemming from the dock being built too low, the applicant will install a hand-railing three feet in height along the eastern edge of the existing dock walkway. Additionally, the terminal platform addition will either be constructed to meet the minimum floor elevation of one foot above the NHWE or will also include a hand-railing three feet in height along the eastern edge of the platform. In the event the water level rises above the existing floor elevation, the posts and roof over most of the existing terminal platform, the existing floating nature of the remainder of the existing terminal platform, and the hand railing will serve as a visual indicator of the presence of the portions of the dock that do not meet the minimum floor elevation requirement. At three feet in height, the top of the hand railing will extend 1.9 feet above the highest recorded water level on Lake Irma, which was reached in 2004.

Notification of the Application for Waiver and after-the-fact Application for Variance was sent to all shoreline property owners within a 300-foot radius of the property. An objection to the waiver request (terminal platform size) was received on February 18, 2020 from the adjacent neighbors to the west. On March 20, 2020, the objectors withdrew their objection, citing "the interest of neighborly harmony" as the reason.

Although the dock was constructed without adherence to the permit or approved plans, it was constructed prior to the purchase of the property by the current owner; therefore, no enforcement action has been initiated.

Staff evaluated the waiver request for compliance with the criteria for approval. The recommendation of the Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) is to approve the request for waiver to Section 15-342(b) (terminal platform size) based on a finding that the applicant demonstrated there will be no negative effect on the abutting shoreline owner pursuant to Section 15-350(a)(2)(2), as the only objection received was withdrawn. Additionally, any impact to the environment pursuant to Section 15-350(a)(2)(1) will be offset as the applicant has agreed to provide a \$675 payment to the Conservation Trust Fund as mitigation for the additional shading impacts.

Staff also evaluated the after-the-fact variance request for compliance with the criteria for approval. The applicant has demonstrated that the hardship is not self-imposed, since the dock was constructed by the previous property owners. With the inclusion of the proposed hand railings, all portions of the dock that do not meet the minimum floor elevation requirement will remain visible during typical high-water events, addressing safety and navigational concerns. In addition, water level data indicates that for the last 15 years the water level in Lake Irma trended lower than the established NHWE and has only exceeded the NHWE on one recorded date during this timeframe (July 2005). Therefore, the recommendation of the EPO is to approve the request for the after-the-fact variance to Section 15-342(d), based on a finding that the applicant has demonstrated that the hardship is not self-imposed, that there will be no effect on abutting shoreline owners pursuant to Section 15-350(a)(1) as the only objection received was specifically regarding the waiver request and has been retracted, and the request is not contrary to any other criteria in Section 15-350(a)(1).

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Based upon evidence and testimony presented at the July 29, 2020 public hearing, the Environmental Protection Commission voted to accept the findings and recommendation of the EPO and made a recommendation to approve the request for waiver to Section 15-342(b) (terminal platform) with the condition that the applicant pay \$675 to the Conservation Trust Fund as mitigation within 60 days of the decision of the Board of County Commissioners, and to approve the request for after-the-fact variance to Section 15-342(d) (floor elevation) to decrease the minimum floor elevation from one foot to 0.06 foot above the NHWE of Lake Irma with the condition that the applicant enter into a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement with Orange County.

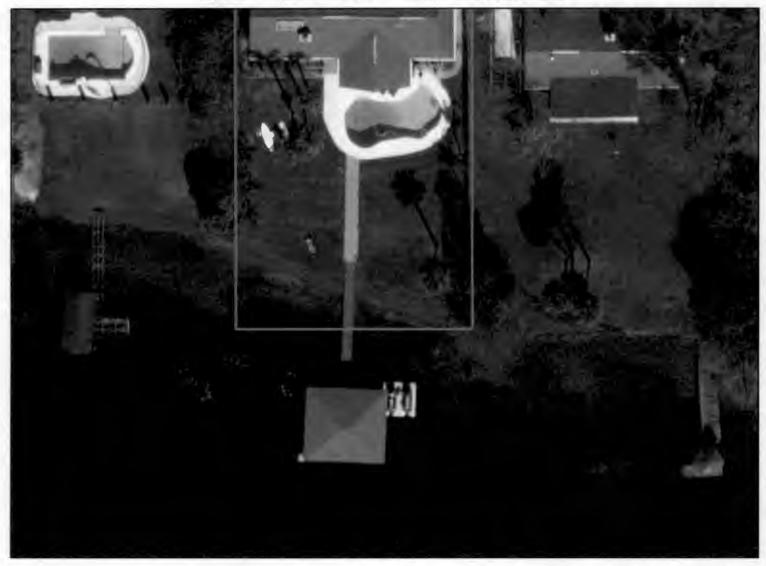
ACTION REQUESTED:

Accept the findings and recommendations of the **Environmental Protection Commission and approve** the request for waiver to Orange County Code. Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-342(b) to increase the allowable terminal platform size from 874 square feet to 1.104 square feet with the payment of \$675 to the Conservation Trust Fund within 60 days of the decision of the Board of County Commissioners, and approve the after-the-fact request for variance to Section 15-342(d) to decrease the minimum floor elevation from one foot to 0.06 foot above the Normal High Water Elevation of Lake Irma with the condition that the applicant enter into a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement with Orange County for the Phillips Dock Construction Permit BD-20-01-008. District 5

JVW/DDJ: mg

Attachments

Dock Construction Application for Waiver and After-the-Fact Variance



Dock Construction Application for Waiver and

After-the-Fact Variance BD-20-01-008

District #5

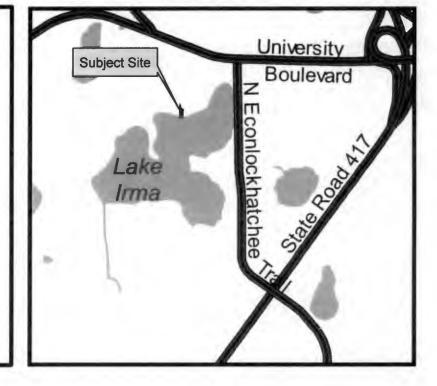
Applicant: Scott Phillips

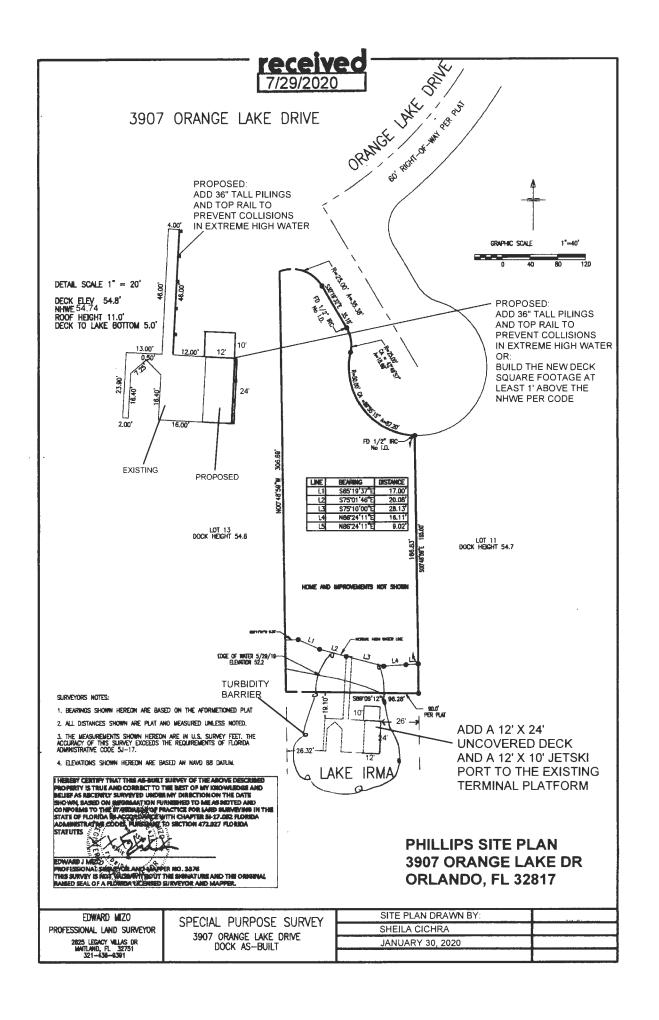
Address: 3907 Orange Lake Drive

Parcel ID: 12-22-30-4511-00-120

Project Site

Property Location







ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION David D. Jones, P.E., CEP, Manager

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PROTECTION COMMISSION

Jonathan Huela Chairman

Mack Ausley Vice Chairman

Oscar Anderson

Flormari Blackburn

Billy Butterfield

Mark Corbett

ORANGE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION July 29, 2020

PROJECT NAME: Scott Phillips

PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER: BD-20-01-008

LOCATION/ADDRESS: 3907 Orange Lake Drive, Orlando

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the findings and recommendations of the

Environmental Protection Officer and approve the request for waiver to Section 15-342(b) to increase the allowable terminal platform size from 874 square feet to 1,104 square feet with the payment of \$675 to the Conservation Trust Fund within 60 days of the decision of the Board of County Commissioners, and approve the after-the-fact request for variance to Section 15-342(d) to decrease the minimum floor elevation from one foot to 0.06 foot above the Normal High Water Elevation of Lake Irma with the condition that the applicant enter into a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement with Orange County for the Phillips Dock Construction Permit BD-20-01-008. District

EPC AGREES WITH THE ACTION REQUESTED, AS PRESENTED

EPC DISAGREES WITH THE ACTION REQUESTED, AS PRESENTED AND HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION:

Signature of EPC Chairman:

DATE EPC RECOMMENDATION RENDERED: 4/25/25

Serving our community by conserving, protecting, and enhancing the environment for current and future generations.



