# McGREGOR <br> LEGERE \& STEVENS <br> ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.C. 

March 23, 2023
Arthur F. Hultin, Jr., Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals
Town of Truro
24 Town Hall road
Truro, MA 02666
esturdy@truro-ma.gov

## RE: Application for Special Permit (Height) - 423 Shore Road Our File No. 2922

Dear Mr. Hultin and Members of the Board:

On behalf of Jennifer Shapiro Chisolm, Trustee of the Beach Point Trust, we hereby request that the Zoning Board of Appeals issue a Special Permit under Section 50.1.B of the Zoning Bylaws to exceed by two (2) feet the maximum building height in conjunction with the proposed reconstruction of a single-family dwelling at 423 Shore Road in the Beach Point neighborhood of Truro (the "Project"), a project which you are already considering under a pending application (2023-001/ZBA) for a Special Permit under Section 30.7 of the Zoning Bylaws. The maximum building height allowed under Truro’s Zoning Bylaws as-of-right is 30 feet.

Based on Board Members’ comments at the February 27, 2023 hearing on the pending Special Permit application, we revised the Project by moving the house further away (by 20 feet) from Shore Road so as to fully comply with the front yard setback and thus completely eliminate that pre-existing nonconformity. At its March 6, 2023 meeting, the Conservation Commission approved this revised project configuration, which also includes eliminating the storage area below the house and placing the house entirely on piles; the revised project also includes a small ( $10^{\prime}$ x $12^{\prime}$ ) shed to provide for the storage area lost underneath the house. ${ }^{1}$

Due to the way that building height is measured under the current Zoning Bylaw - based on existing grade - moving the proposed house back from Shore Road while maintaining the same first floor and ridge elevations results in the structure exceeding the maximum building

[^0]height, even though the structure is not raised. This is because the lot naturally slopes downward away from Shore Road and towards Route 6 (and Pilgrim Lake). Please see attached sketch in Exhibit A. The first floor of the house is proposed to be three (3) feet above the floodplain's Base Flood Elevation. Compression of the overall building height to accommodate both the base flood elevation and freeboard while meeting the maximum ridge height would force a less traditional and significantly more shallow primary roof pitch; and potentially force a slight footprint increase to accommodate displaced HVAC equipment currently located in the attic space provided by the more traditional roof pitch. ${ }^{2}$

Included in this Special Permit application are the following documents:

1. "Plan Showing Existing Site Conditions", sheet C1.2.1, by Coastal Engineering Company, June 23, 2021, stamped by John McElwee, P.L.S;
2. "Plan Showing Proposed Site Improvement", sheet C2.1.3, by Coastal Engineering Company, January 26, 2023, revised March 16, 2023;
3. Architectural plans by R. Campbell Design, LLC; dated January 26, 2023, revised February 3, 2023 consisting of five sheets: A0.01 (Site Diagrams); A1.01 (Building Plan); A2.01 (Exterior Elevations); A2.02 (Exterior Elevations); and A5.01 (Building Sections); and
4. "Planting Plan" by BlueFlax Design llc, January 12, 2023, revised March 21, 2023.

While the height exceedance is a new nonconformity, it does not require a variance as is often the case with new conformities. Section 50.1.B. of the Zoning Bylaws provides that "(e)xceptions to height limitations may be authorized by Board of Appeals by special permit."

With the maximum height allowed by right being 30 feet and two stories, an exceedance by 2 feet is only an approximately $6 \%$ increase, so quite minor. There are existing two-story structures nearby and throughout the neighborhood along Shore Road. For example, next door at 417 Shore Road, diagonally across the street at 428 Shore Road, and nearby at 407, 420 Shore Road, 433 Shore Road, and 444 Shore Road. The new structure will not be substantially more detrimental than the existing nonconforming [structure and] use to the neighborhood.

Therefore, the Project will not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing use. Additionally, residential use will continue in the same intensity as no additional bedrooms are proposed. The modernized structure, proposed vegetation management plan, and reduction in impervious surface will be a substantial improvement to the lot and neighborhood in general. Compliance with state and local flood zone requirements will also reduce rather than increase any detriment to the neighborhood (we do not believe there is any existing detriment).

[^1]
## McGREGOR LEGERE \& STEVENS

Also, the Project will be in harmony with the general public good and intent of the Zoning Bylaws, as required by Section 30.8.C as well as Section 9 of the Zoning Act, by promoting public health and safety. With its additional first-floor height and its foundation complying with state and local flood zone requirements, the replacement structure will reduce, now and in the future as sea levels rise, the potential of storm damage and flood damage to it, other structures in the neighborhood, and the public in general.

Furthermore, the Project's new structure will help to conserve the value of land and buildings throughout the neighborhood. The Project's replacement of the existing cesspool with a modern sewage disposal system including I/A treatment (already approved by the Board of Health) will help protect the Town's waters as well as public health. The Project's reduction of impervious surface and extensive vegetation management and planting plan will help conserve natural resources.

For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully request that the Zoning Board of Appeals grant a Special Permit to exceed by two (2) feet the maximum building height requirement of 30 feet so as to allow for the reconstruction of the single-family dwelling at 423 Shore Road.

Thank you for considering this application.
Very truly yours,
Nathaniel Stevens

Nathaniel Stevens

EXHIBIT A


## Town of Truro Zoning Board of Appeals

## P.O. Box 2030, Truro, MA 02666

## APPLICATION FOR HEARING

To the Town Clerk of the Town of Truro, MA
The undersigned hereby files with specific grounds for this application:

Date March 23, 2023
(check all that apply)

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

$\square$ NOTICE OF APPEAL
$\square$ Applicant is aggrieved by his/her inability to obtain a permit or enforcement action from the Building Commissioner on (date) $\qquad$ —.
$\square$ Applicant is aggrieved by order or decision of the Building Commissioner on (date) $\qquad$ which he/she believes to be a violation of the Truro Zoning Bylaw or the Massachusetts Zoning Act.
PETITION FOR VARIANCE - Applicant requests a variance from the terms Section $\qquad$ of the Truro Zoning Bylaw concerning (describe) $\qquad$

【 APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL PERMIT
$\square$ Applicant seeks approval and authorization of uses under Section $\qquad$ of the Truro Zoning Bylaw concerning (describe) $\qquad$
【 Applicant seeks approval for a continuation, change, or extension of a nonconforming structure or use under Section 50.1.B of the Truro Zoning Bylaw and M.G.L. Ch. 40A, $\S 6$ concerning (describe) $\qquad$ Exceed maximum building height by 2 ' for demolition and reconstruction of single-family dwelling.
Property Address $\qquad$
$\qquad$ Map(s) and Parcel(s) 9-1
Registry of Deeds title reference: Book 10002/13943_, Page $\quad 131 / 346$, or Certificate of Title
Number $\qquad$ and Land Ct. Lot \# $\qquad$ and Plan \# $\qquad$
Applicant's Name $\qquad$ Jennifer Shapiro (Chisholm), Trustee, Beach Point Trust
Applicant's Legal Mailing Address 51 Longfellow Road, Wellesley, MA 02481
Applicant's Phone(s), Fax and Email 617-435-1481; shapchiz@aol.com
Applicant is one of the following: (please check appropriate box)
*Written Permission of the owner is required for submittal of this application.
Q Owner $\square$ Prospective Buyer* $\square$ Other*
Owner's Name and Address
Representative's Name and Address Nathaniel Stevens, Esq., McGregor Legere \& Stevens PC; 15 Court Square \#660, Boston, MA Representative's Phone(s), Fax and Email _857-449-2217 (phone); 617-338-0737 (fax); nstevens@mcgregorlaw.com
2. The completed application shall also be submitted electronically to the Planning Department Administrator at esturdy@truro-ma.gov in its entirety (including all plans and attachments).

- The applicant is advised to consult with the Building Commissioner, Planning Department, Conservation Department, Health Department, and/or Historic Commission, as applicable, prior to submitting this application.


## Signature(s)

Nathaniel Stevens, Esq.
Applicant(s)/Representative Printed Name(s)
Nathaniel Stevens
Applicant(s)/Representative Signature
Owner(s) Printed Name(s) or written permission
Owner(s) Signature or written permission




PRELIMINARY NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION





Google Eath neiid ingoe of 423 Shore Rood, Tuvo, MA.
PLAN NOTES

- Site plan provided by Coastal Engineering.
- This plan proposes mitigation for the increase in structure in the form of concrete surface removal and invasi
19,881 squarc feet.
Invasive species on site that will be managed/removed include Asiatic bittersweet
(Clastruscbiulthis) $)$ (Celastrus s orbiculatusu) , autumn olive (Eleagnusu umbellata) and shrub honeysuckle (Lonicerasspp). Invasive plants will be selectively treated with an EPA-approved systen
herbicide and removed mechanically or by hand. noved mechanically or by hand
- After invasive species removal the project area will be seeded with a native grass and wildfower mix (see below).
Native vegetation that was damaged by invasive species or historic pruning may be regeneratively pruned
and vigorous growth.
All vegetation debris wilb be removed from the site and brought to an off-site disposal area.
Temporary drip irrigation will be required for the first two to three growing seasons while plants establish. Once plants are established irrigation will be removed
Follow up invaive species management will be ongoing over the next three growing
seasons to e ensure proper management and successful restoration. VISED PLAN NOTES 3/21/23
Revise planting plan to include areas where exising structure is located
- Revise planting plan to include areas $\mathbf{w}$
- Remove previously proposed path to basement (basement/foundation has been
- Remove p
removed).
- Add shed.

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© box 391 harwich port ma 774-408-7718 | wwuv.blueflaxdesign.com

## PLANTING PLAN

01/06/23 REVISED 3/21/23
CHISHOLM RESIDENCE
423 SHORE RD.
RURO, MA


$\frac{\text { GRASS } \& \text { WILDFLOWER SEED MIX-RESTORATION }}{\text { AREAS }}$
Agrostis perennans / Autumn Bentgras
Asclepias tuberosa / Butrenly Milkweed Echinacea purpurea / Purple Coneflower Festuca ovina/ / Red Fescueve Eestuca rubra $/$ Red Fesco
Uncus tenuis $/$ Path Rush Uodbeckia hita / Black-eyed Susan

Typical Landscape
Invasive Species Management Area

Restoration Planting Area


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ We understand that since the shed meets zoning setbacks, no approval from this Board is necessary.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ We note that some other coastal municipalities have revised their zoning bylaws to encourage raising structures well above the base flood elevation ("BFE") by measuring building height from the BFE rather than existing grade, for those structures in the 100-year floodplain. Here, the entire project site is within the 100-year FEMA floodplain.

