## TOWN OF CORTLANDT PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS

ZONING BOARD MEETING

Town Hall

1 Heady Street

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

June 20, 2024

7:00 p.m. - 7:47 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Fleming, Chairman

Wai Man Chin, Vice-Chairman

Chris Beloff, Member

Frank Franco, Member

Michelle Piccolo Hill, Member

Benito Martinez, Member

Thomas Walsh, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Chris Kehoe, AICP, Director of Planning

June 20, 2024  (The board meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.)  MR. MICHAEL FLEMING: Today is June 20,
MR. MICHAEL FLEMING: Today is June 20,
2024. I'd like to call to order the town of
Courtland Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. We
could just start with anyone who wishes to join
me in saying the Pledge of Allegiance? Please,
please do so.
MULTIPLE: I pledge allegiance to the
flag of the United States of America and to the
Republic for which it stands, one nation under
God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for
all.
MR. FLEMING: Alright, thank you, Mr.
Kehoe, can you do a roll call, please?
MR. CHRIS KEHOE: Ms. Piccolo Hill?
MS. MICHELLE PICCOLO HILL: Here.
MR. KEHOE: Mr. Martinez?
MR. BENITO MARTINEZ: Here.
MR. KEHOE: Mr. Franco?
MR. FRANK FRANCO: Here.
MR. KEHOE: Mr. Fleming?
MR. FLEMING: Here.
MR. KEHOE: Mr. Chin?

	Page 4
1	June 20, 2024
2	MR. WAI MAN CHIN: Here.
3	MR. KEHOE: Mr. Walsh?
4	MR. THOMAS WALSH: Here.
5	MR. KEHOE: Mr. Beloff?
6	MR. CHRIS BELOFF: Here.
7	MR. FLEMING: Has everyone had an
8	opportunity to review the meeting minutes from
9	the May 16, 2024 meeting? And if so, can I get a
10	motion please?
11	MR. CHIN: Motion.
12	MR. FRANCO: So moved.
13	MR. FLEMING: Motion, motion to approve
14	the minutes. Can I get a second?
15	MR. MARTINEZ: Second.
16	MR. FLEMING: All in favor?
17	MULTIPLE: Aye.
18	MR. FLEMING: Any opposed? Alright, the,
19	the minutes have been approved. Alright, the only
20	case on, I believe Ms. Piccolo Hill is yours,
21	2024-4.
22	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Yes, it is John E.
23	Lentini, on behalf of Edison Ruilova for an area
24	variances in the front yard for proposed two car

	Daga k
1	June 20, 2024
2	garage and an existing shed.
3	MR. FLEMING: Alright, we previously had
4	had this case on. We had conducted a site visit
5	last Sunday, I believe it was June 9th. Thank you
6	for, for allowing us to have that site visit.
7	MR. JOHN LENTINI: Sure.
8	MR. FLEMING: We appreciate it.
9	MR. LENTINI: My pleasure.
10	MR. FLEMING: If, if the applicant has
11	anything else they wish to provide to us, and I
12	will note that you did provide two additional
13	documents today, which all the board members have
14	gotten and have, and have had a chance to, to
15	review. But if you want to reference these or if
16	you have anything else you want to put on the
17	record, please do so.
18	MR. LENTINI: Awesome. Good evening.
19	MR. FLEMING: Please state your name,
20	obviously.
21	MR. LENTINI: Mr. Chairman and members
22	of the board and staff, I'm John Lentini,
23	architect for Edison Ruilova, I think I'm
24	pronouncing right, Ruilova. This survey just

1 June 20, 2024 produced another issue. There's a shed that I'm 2 told was there since 1940, but on the rear 3 4 northern part of the property line, say 5 northwestern part of the property line. It's only three feet from the property line. I don't know 6 7 if there's any prior rights to that, whether we should try to include it in a otherwise difficult 8 9 request for a variance or just essentially move 10 it, you know, or, or shave it down. But that, 11 that's something new that the survey produced. 12 MR. KEHOE: Did you speak to Martin 13 about that yet? 14 MR. LENTINI: I didn't talk to Martin 15 about this. I talked to him today and I 16 completely forgot. I'll call him tomorrow. But I, 17 I don't know for a fact that this has been there 18 that long, but it looks pretty old and I don't 19 know that there is any prior nonconforming rights 20 for that shed. 21 MR. KEHOE: Is that, is that the shed 22 behind the septic area? 2.3 MR. LENTINI: Yes. 24 MR. WALSH: Was that the green one?

	1 12360
1	June 20, 2024
2	MR. KEHOE: Right.
3	MR. FLEMING: Was, was that the one that
4	was green or was that the one that was red
5	painted?
6	MR. LENTINI: Do you know what the color
7	is?
8	MR. EDISON RUILOVA: The green, green
9	one, green one.
10	MR. WALSH: The green one, okay.
11	MR. LENTINI: That has a, has a, a
12	generator in front of it and a fuel storage
13	behind it.
14	MS. PICCOLO HILL: It's the one to the
15	right of the gravel that goes back to the one
16	with the garage door?
17	MR. LENTINI: Yes.
18	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Okay.
19	MR. LENTINI: Otherwise, the survey
20	didn't produce any surprises for me. We had only
21	asked him to do the topo for where we were
22	working. The, the other thing that I provided was
23	just an analysis of how many other places this
24	garage could go. And if you strike a line across

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

2.3

24

the front of the building, it produces an area about one-third of the whole site that you can't build an accessory building in front of. To the right of the house, you have the septic system that we can't drive over or put anything on top of. And the site probably would not be approvable for a modern septic system today. And if I were to file to move it, they would impose all the, the latest laws about septic systems and most houses don't actually meet the current standards for single site sewage treatment systems, SSTs. On the left side and down below, the terrain is very steep. But at the bottom there are flat areas, but if we were to put a garage there, there's no way of communicating with the house, and we wouldn't be allowed to have two driveways so it would defeat our purpose.

So the only place that a garage could go is in the backyard, which is the only other flat area on the site, as opposed to in front where we couldn't put it anyway. That's why we're here requesting a variance. And in the back they want to have a backyard, you know, to play soccer. I

Geneva Worldwide, Inc. 228 Park Ave S - PMB 27669. New York, NY 10003 1

June 20, 2024

20

21

22

2.3

24

asked Adriana does she kick a ball around. His, the owner's daughter's is here today. And she said, oh yeah, we play in the backyard. If we put a garage there, we would have to have a driveway to it. We'd have to have turnarounds. And then we get to the point, why do we need a garage?

Well, the garage that's in the building is too small for most modern vehicles. SUVs don't fit. And frankly, people don't put their cars so much in their houses anymore. I'm not sure of that, the fear of gasoline or other things, but the purpose for this garage would be to store other things besides automobiles. And it would be away from the house. It would be closer to the road. And it would potentially, there's been some feedback that it could be used to store materials. Moreover, outside of it, I think would be the concern because if we stored materials inside of it, I don't know how that would bother anybody.

But at our site visit, you noticed that there were materials outside and I questioned the owner about it and he told me that some of those

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

2.3

24

materials actually came with the house, that
there was a lot of stuff including the toilets.
The only thing he admitted to putting there were
the sinks. You know, there was a, a bunch of
sinks rolled up on the side of the house, but all
the toilets down by the street are slated to be
removed when he has an opportunity to remove him,
I don't think the sanitation will take them.

But getting to his business on his ability to use the yard, he does major work in New York City. He has two jobs, one on West 67th Street, where they gave him a portion of the building to store his vehicles and materials, and another one in Brooklyn where I, I've -- she showed me the pictures that he has these longterm jobs where he's renovating apartments, he's putting in floors, changing, you know, modernizing bathrooms, all housing work, kind of work, sort of. And he really has no purpose for doing that. But not to say that, you know, we could swear we're never going to put any materials out there. I don't know how enforceable that is. I don't want to insult any of the

2.3

June 20, 2024

neighbors, by okay, we'll be good, we'll swear.

But he has no intention of doing that. That's my

point.

And otherwise there are probably other laws, quality of life laws that could be imposed if it did become a nuisance. I don't see putting the garage there itself would create the nuisance. And in terms of what it would look like, as I pointed out, if the building faced the other street, Mount Airy Road, the garage will be permitted there, so it's not like it's so unusual that we would have it.

Going to the points of the state law -the town law, we didn't create this yet, we
didn't do it. He was just grading off an area as
an afterthought, that I believe we can't really - you put this anywhere else, his hardships are
the fact that it's a big corner lot that is 60,
more, 70 percent of it is steep slope.

And finally, I don't believe that it will look obnoxious or won't be out of character for the neighborhood. So, I think I've touched upon all of them.

2.3

MR. FLEMING: Okay. Do you have any questions, I'll start with you.

MS. PICCOLO HILL: Okay. You know, I did go to the site. I did have some concerns. Talking about the five factors, I think it could potentially create an undesirable change to the neighborhood. I do think, also having walked around, I do think that there are other options potentially for putting the garage. So, I would want that, or I would recommend looking into that because if there was a vote today, I don't know if I'd be able to vote yes.

You know, the adverse impact, adverse effect on the physical environment, there's a lot of fill on a very steep slope. I would question what the fill was because I would want to make sure that the garage wouldn't then tumble down the hill, especially with all the rains that we have.

MR. LENTINI: Sure.

MS. PICCOLO HILL: And was it self-created? I do actually think it was self-created. Because I do think that there are other places on

2.3

site where you could potentially put the garage. You know, having kids myself, I know that play space is very important. But there was a place, and, and again, I'm not a designer, I'm not an architect, but there was a place to the left of the house where a garage could yes, potentially be in that prohibited area, but it would be less impactful on the street, on the neighbors, on the topography. It would be tucked away. It would be closer to the house. So for example, if something like that came to me, I would be more amenable to that than I would where it currently is residing.

MR. LENTINI: Still in the front setback, in other words?

MRPH Well, I, there was -- I actually thought there was a flat space to the left of the house that you could potentially put it, really close to the house, which sort of made sense to me because you wouldn't have to readjust the driveway. It would be easily accessible and it wouldn't, a lot of these factors wouldn't be, you wouldn't have a problem with a lot of the five factors if you tucked it closer to the house.

	Dago 1
1	Page 1 June 20, 2024
2	MR. LENTINI: I see, I see where you're
3	talking about. Up until recently, that wouldn't
4	have been permitted either, because now we don't
5	have two front yards anymore.
6	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Right.
7	MR. LENTINI: But we're permitted, that
8	would be a permitted ability to put the garage
9	there.
10	MS. PICCOLO HILL: So
11	MR. FRANCO: Yeah. And, and if it was on
12	the side of the house, you might not need a
13	variance at all.
14	MR. LENTINI: No, you wouldn't. That's
15	what I was saying.
16	MR. KEHOE: Michelle, are you talking,
17	can you see the pointer on the screen?
18	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Yes.
19	MR. KEHOE: That area there.
20	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Over there.
21	MR. CHIN: Yes.
22	MS. PICCOLO HILL: So, and then you'd
23	still have the space, because there was the flat
24	yard to the left hand side, but there was also

1	June 20, 2024
2	the flat yard to the back. So, you know, yes,
3	you're dealing with some slopes, but the slopes
4	there were less than he's dealing with in the
5	current position. So
6	MR. FLEMING: I'm going to interrupt you
7	for one second. Chris, could you put the second
8	map up, the page two that was sent today? And if
9	you could just, yeah, center it so thank you.
10	So, you're looking at then is right where that
11	word brick is, kind of surrounded by yellow right
12	in the middle of that right there. I mean that
13	you're talking about that area, Michelle, right?
14	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Um
15	MR. WALSH: Yeah.
16	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Yes, yes.
17	MR. FLEMING: Okay. I just wanted to
18	make sure I knew what you were saying.
19	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Yeah, so because it
20	was, it was flat, there was new grass, it looked
21	like a tree or two had been taken out of that
22	area.
23	MR. LENTINI: Yeah.
24	MS. PICCOLO HILL: That almost looked

1	June 20, 2024
2	like a perfect spot for a garage.
3	MR. LENTINI: Well, one setback is a
4	hammerhead turnaround that you'd probably only be
5	able to drive in and back out because to be able
6	to back out of the garage and turn in either
7	direction to drive out straight, you'd either hit
8	the house or you'd be going down a steep slope.
9	But it could be filled in there too, but we'll
10	still have another problem with the fill.
11	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Right. Yeah. I mean
12	if he's, if he's willing to look at fill
13	MR. LENTINI: Yeah.
14	MS. PICCOLO HILL: that may be an
15	alternative. I'm just, I mean, my concern right
16	now as it stands, there are too many of the five
17	factors that are impacted for me to overlook.
18	MR. LENTINI: I understand. Well, I
19	suppose we could ask for an adjournment. I think
20	there's people from the public that want
21	MR. FLEMING: Yeah, we're, we're not
22	done yet.
23	MR. LENTINI: to speak.
24	MR. FLEMING: I, I think I'm going to

1

June 20, 2024

2

or ask any questions of the applicant. And then

4

after that I will ask the public if they have any

allow each of the members of the board to respond

5

comments.

6

MR. LENTINI: Okay.

7

MR. FLEMING: Certainly, if you feel

8

like there's something you could do to change the

9

way you feel it's going, we would welcome your

10

requests, consider it. And adjournments are

11

freely given if you think you want to play with

12

something. So, but nonetheless, let's each of the

13

board members, if they have any questions, ask

14

them. And then we'll let the public ask questions

15

and then we could move on to that.

16

MR. LENTINI: Yeah.

17

MR. CHIN: Actually Mr. Lentini,

18

actually, I agree with Ms. Piccolo on this, only

19

because a car is not as big as it used to be.

20

They're only about 18 feet, you know what I mean?

21

Not like years ago when it was 21 feet, alright.

22

And I assume that that's what you're going to

23

have is just cars in there, not anything bigger

24

than a car, you know what I mean?

MR. LENTINI: Yes.

MR. CHIN: Maybe a van, but that's about it, you know what I mean? And even a van's not that big. So to, to put a garage over there and turn around a little bit over there, I don't see a problem based on the, the, the size of that area where even if it's, it's two foot or four foot grade coming down a little bit, you go backfill a little bit over there and still have no problem. So I think that what Ms. Piccolo recommending may be a better solution.

MR. LENTINI: Okay. I have to speak to my client about, you know.

MR. FLEMING: Of course, of course.

Anyone else on the board have comments,
questions?

MR. MARTINEZ: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I totally agree with Michelle and I appreciate if you guys can definitely look into that because that way will make it a lot easier to, to have that approved.

2.3

MR. FRANCO: Yeah, I, I don't have any additional comments and, you know, compare --

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

2.3

24

relative to the fill that has already been put into that current proposed spot you probably -- it, it would appear that you would need less fill to level the spot that we're proposing. So.

MR. FLEMING: I'm going to go through the five factors again, just so we cover all of them. I mean, the first factor is an undesirable neighborhood change or detrimental to nearby properties. Well, I don't think there's any physical detriment to nearby properties, you know, having a large building in, in the front. And again, I do understand that it's strange having a corner lot where you, you know, there, there's, there's different ways of trying to look at where the front is. But there, there's no question the front of the house, you know, is, is the front of the house that faces the current driveway. And you know, there's a reason for that, you know, zoning requirement that you not put out buildings in front of, you know, at your house that they, that they be behind it.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Excuse me. Can you speak up? I can't hear.

2.3

MR. FLEMING: Sorry. I'll, I'll pull that closer and no problem, thank you. So, so basically I was going through the five factors and the first one, which is an undesirable neighborhood change. I, I do have concerns about where you're going to put it. It, it's a large building. I mean I can't remember the dimensions off the top of my head, but they were substantial.

MR. KEHOE: Yeah, just based on what Wai was saying, I looked and it's 30 by 24.

MR. FLEMING: Alright, so you have, you have a 30 by 24 inch (SIC) building. There is a reason the town is elected to have zoning having these outbuildings behind the house or on the side of the house. It, it's, it's a big building to put in the front of the house. So I, I do find that it's an undesirable neighborhood change to, to allow such a large structure to be, to be basically parked in front of the house.

Whether the benefit can be achieved by some other feasible means, and five, the self-created factor, to me kind of go hand in hand

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

2.3

24

here. I was happy I got to see the property because I, I was actually very, very opposed to it when I first saw it. And then when I got to see the property, I, I do think there are other places. I had not considered where Michelle actually did. So I'm glad to hear her talk about that. But I do think there were other locations where you could achieve the, the desire to store, I thought it was snowmobiles and equipment that you were talking about, but if it's cars too, I mean like I don't really care what you do with it. But nonetheless, I do think there were other places. And I think, while I think every zoning request is self-created, this one I'm going to say is more self-created than others. You, you were choosing a spot that, that to me doesn't, doesn't make a lot of sense in my head and it doesn't make a lot of sense to violate the requirement that there not be a large building in front of a house, you know, in, in this case. So I kind of felt both of those weren't really satisfied.

It is a substantial building and, and

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

2.3

24

you know, it's not like it's a, it's not like it's that little shed which is on the side of the road, which is, you know, 10 by 10. I mean, this is a, this is a large building, you know, so putting it in front of the house to, to me, you know, violates that substantiality rule.

As for the adverse environmental impacts or effects, I, I, I almost don't feel qualified to, to talk about, you know, that particular, in this case, I do think it's a very steep slope. Our building department would deal with the steep slopes requirements if there was an issue. But, but, but it is a, it is a very steep slope directly behind, you know, that building. I'm, I'm not going to say that's violated just because I haven't seen anything that shows that it is. But, but that was a concern of mine as well. It sat certainly sat in my head when I was there looking down that hill, you know, about the idea of having a, you know, large building parked right up against a, a 35-foot change in elevation from the road to the to where the building's located. It's, it's both substantial and, and it

2.3

certainly does look like it's, it's going to impact the neighborhood badly.

So, at this point, I, I would be, I would be a no on allowing this to go this request for zoning to go forward. I don't want to speak for the whole board though, because I certainly can't. So, I'll let anybody else on this side who wants to go, I think Wai, you already went, but if you have anything else to add, please do.

MR. CHIN: I, I still have one, one little thing about the stuff that's, like you said, the sinks were put there by him, but not the toilet bowls or something like that or whatever down the line. It's still, you're making it look like a contractor's yard when that's there. Okay. That's number one. Alright, and I've been in construction all my life, basically, you know what I mean? And in Manhattan, everywhere else they don't, you don't bring toilet bowls or sinks back to your home, you know what I mean, and leave them there, okay. So that's, that's my concern. We live in a residential neighborhood and we want to keep it that way where we don't

1	June 20, 2024
2	have all kinds of debris, just construction
3	debris. Even trucks are not allowed on your
4	property, you know what I mean? Big trucks, you
5	know what I mean?
6	MR. LENTINI: Yep. I understand. Yes.
7	MR. CHIN: You know, they have to be,
8	they have to be put in the garage, maybe in an
9	offsite or something like that, you know what I
10	mean? You just can't have it sitting in your
11	front yard. So those are things I'm concerned
12	about with what I saw with all the construction
13	debris that was there. It was my biggest concern
14	was of being a contractor's yard and, and he's a
15	contractor and kind of caught me right there.
16	That's the only thing.
17	MR. LENTINI: Well, a part of it is that
18	they were under construction. Every, every
19	construction project is a contractor's yard
20	MR. CHIN: Yeah. Well, I understand but
21	
22	MR. LENTINI: while it's occurring,
23	MR. CHIN: Not, not, not construction
24	debris from another site.

	Page 25
1	June 20, 2024
2	MR. LENTINI: Yeah.
3	MR. CHIN: Okay. You said that the sinks
4	were from another site, you know, so from where
5	he was working, you know what I mean?
6	MR. LENTINI: Yeah.
7	MR. CHIN: He can't just bring that home
8	and just plop it down there, you know what I
9	mean? Okay. If those toilet bowls were there from
10	before he got there, then get rid of them
11	somehow, you know what I mean? There's, there's
12	places to get rid of. He, as a contractor,
13	supposedly has a couple places where he has
14	construction yards. Maybe you should bring it up
15	there. That's what I'm saying.
16	MR. FLEMING: There are disposal sites.
17	MR. LENTINI: Yeah, I've made that
18	MR. CHIN: But He also indicated that he
19	has his own one in Verplanck or something like
20	that, or somewhere.
21	MR. LENTINI: Yeah.
22	MR. CHIN: He has some
23	MR. LENTINI: Well, he moved from
24	Verplanck and had a similar situation.

	Dago (
1	Page 2 June 20, 2024
2	MR. CHIN: So, yeah, right.
3	MR. LENTINI: But I've made that clear
4	to him. He, he fully understands that, yeah.
5	MR. CHIN: Well, that's that was my
6	biggest concern, more than where the site of the
7	garage is going to be. You know what I mean?
8	MR. LENTINI: Right.
9	MR. CHIN: And the garage is quite
10	large, you know, because a normal garage, okay,
11	it's usually about maybe 20, 22 feet wide by
12	about 24 feet deep. Thirty feet is a very, very
13	long garage, you know what I mean? It's like
14	almost eight feet more than what you really need,
15	you know.
16	MR. LENTINI: 24 by 24 is a pretty
17	standard.
18	MR. CHIN: Yeah, Yeah, 20, actually 22
19	by 24.
20	MR. LENTINI: Yeah.
21	MR. CHIN: You know, is a pretty much
22	standard garage, but you know what I'm saying,
23	you know.
24	MR. LENTINI: Well, graphic standard

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

2.3

24

2 says 22 by 22 actually.

MR. CHIN: Don't go by graphic standards. Alright. That's all I have to say about it.

MR. FLEMING: Tom?

MR. CHIN: On other things, that's it.

MR. WALSH: You know, I, I agree with my colleagues. I, as I go through the five factors, you know, even when we first got the case, just looking at the topography of the land where it's laid out in the front yard, I, I don't see one factor that I could, you know, say that they would comply with or I'd grant the variance for. It is substantial. It is, you know, the top of the garage is going to be 39 feet from the corner, you know, elevation, from the corner of Montrose, what is it, Montrose Road and, and Travis. I think it can be, you know, if you do find another location outside the front yard, then you won't need a variance, so it takes us out of this equation. It is substantial. No other, you know, house in the neighborhood has any sort of structure in the front yard. So it is

1	June 20, 2024
2	out of character for the property. It is self-
3	created. And I worry about where it is with
4	runoff, you know, onto the road and onto, onto
5	Macho Station Road. I take that road every day to
6	the train and back. I know that there is
7	currently runoff coming off there. In the
8	wintertime, it is icy. The town's there icing it
9	multiple times a day. So I don't I would not I
10	would not vote in favor of this proposal as is
11	right now.
12	MR. LENTINI: I heard you mention a
13	dimension 39 feet?
14	MR. WALSH: Yeah.
15	MR. LENTINI: What was 39 feet?
16	MR. FLEMING: The top of the building.
17	MR. WALSH: So if you go the elevation
18	of Montrose Station Road
19	Mr. LENTINI: Oh, elevation, 39 feet.
20	MR. WALSH: and Travis were at 120,
21	the corner of the garage at the foundation would
22	be 145 feet
23	MR. LENTINI: It's 39 feet high.
24	MR. WALSH: 14 feet.

2.3

MR. LENTIN: Because we are 50 feet back from the road.

MR. WALSH: Yeah. So it is, it's going to be substantial. You could see it. I drive by it twice a day going back from the train station. I look at it. I also see the, the, you know, the fill that's in there. And I've talked to Chris, you know, Mike Preziosi is going to be checking what the fill is. We were walking around, I saw a faucet sticking out of the ground. So you don't know what is actually filled into that backfill. So I think Mike is going to be checking what's, what's actually in there too.

MR. LENTIN: Well, I had a, the contractor that put the fill in that came recently, got it I, I believe from a reputable place and I've asked him to get a certificate or some evidence of what it is. That's probably not an issue for this board. I have to deal with the engineering department on that. I'd just like to comment about the self-created aspect. Over the years, I've researched that for various jobs and I've seen two examples that spell out clearly

2.3

self-created. One is where a developer would develop a big piece of property and make three or four inferior lots because they don't fit. And then after he is finished building everything, he comes back and asks for a variance to build on the inferior lots. That's one. The other one is, which is pretty standard, when you get caught building something without a permit and you're substantially finished, and then we're here asking for permission to keep it. That's selfcreated. I don't believe this would qualify, but we have, we lose on so many other points. It's kind of moot, but.

MR. FLEMING: Alright. I think what I'm going to do is ask the public come forward and give any comments they want give to us, and then after we listen to their comments, we can certainly have another discussion with you and if you want to visit with your clients --

MR. LENTINI: Okay.

MR. FLEMING: -- in the meantime, you're certainly welcome to.

MR. LENTINI: Yeah.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

2.3

24

MR. FLEMING: If anyone from the public would like to come forward, please state your name your address, and then any comments you want us to consider, you're welcome to give us.

MS. SABRINA SANTUCCI PEREIRA: Okay.

MR. FLEMING: You could pull that down towards you.

MS. SANTUCCI: Thank you. Good evening everyone. Excuse my very casual attire, but I taught in an 87 degree classroom all day long, so it's the best it is. My name is Sabrina Santucci Pereira. I live at 17 Travis Lane. I originated at 15 Travis Lane, grew up there, so I have a lot of history on this street. And then I built a house next door and here I am. Thank you for hearing us this evening. I want to say, first of all, I do appreciate all the improvements that you have made to the house. The house is beautiful. I mean, the house needed to be updated and it, it really does look lovely. I was very excited when they moved in, in August and September and they started to do construction and it was just, you know, wonderful, an improvement

2.3

to the neighborhood. I saw the materials starting to grow around the home and I thought, well, you know, it takes time to get things done and maybe they're not finished inside. And I said nothing, and then watched the materials grow and grow through the winter and more so and more so in trucks and white vans dropping people off and different things. And now here we are. And then I saw the sign and I said, what is going on?

My concern is, first of all, the toilets were never out in front of the yard ever. The Hayles kept the property very nice in the front. The shed was always there. There was never a pipe rack, there was never toilets around. There were never materials around there. I used to babysit at that house. So I'm, I'm familiar with the front of the yard especially. So if the toilets were in the back of the house or in the basement why weren't they disposed of? Contractors and residents who need to dispose of their materials have to put up their money and dispose of it, not just throw it in the yard for everyone else to see.

2.3

I also do want to mention having had some history of growing up in a construction home, that when you leave things like that out in the front where we have children who are up and down our street, you are creating an attractive nuisance, an invitation for children to come up and go, wow, let me go sit on that toilet. And then with all the fill and the steep slopes to slide down it down it and have a tragedy. I know that sounds crazy, but I know there is a, a situation where a child went and played on a pile of wood chips and broke his arm and those contractors were held responsible for creating an attractive nuisance. So that really does exist.

It does diminish our property value the way it looks today. Not the house, but the materials around it. It has been mentioned to me from friends who have pulled into my street and said, what's going on there? You know, that looks like a hot mess all the sudden. And that's hurtful for the almost \$20,000 I pay in taxes a year to live here.

You know, we are a society is where we

2.3

respect each other and help take care of each other and that is what's concerning to me. We see the pallets and materials when -- I do appreciate that we were able to go up for the site visit. I am concerned about the new fill that is there in the area where they want to build the garage that you have tiles and wires sticking out of. Because my concern is if we have such disregard for the materials, how much of it is buried? I'm going to be honest. So if you have disregard for the front, and I heard there sinks and, and countertops from other jobs there, what's in the ground?

Since you brought up the steep slopes, I appreciate that. I agree with so many things you guys brought up at the concerns. Came in and he cleaned up the landscaping and that looks beautiful. But when doing that, also removed all of the brush. And with the steep slopes, we now have flooding on Montrose Station Road, especially the equivalence of where the portico is, that runs down and it, and its, the debris and all the runoff is clogging the drain and

2.3

Montrose Station Road is flooding. We've had a lot of flash flooding rain in the spring, so it's been happening a lot. And over the winter it iced over. So I would be concerned with putting such a piece of a, a monster of a garage in the front and creating maybe even a steeper slope. What is that going to look like for our street? I think we're creating a different problem. We're not controlling the water.

It would be a monster of a garage. It's a commercial garage on a residential street. I park my car inside of my house. I have my garage is attached inside my house and park there. I think the majority of our homes in Cortlandt Manor look like that, or the town of Cortlandt, excuse me, looked like that.

I grew up in a construction home and we never had the construction come home. There was never materials from other jobs. There were never trucks that came that were there. The only times my father's trucks were ever at our home was when they were doing work at our home and then they were gone. They were never parked there overnight

2.3

or for weeks at a time or materials from other places ever brought. I am concerned that building such a large monstrosity of a garage will enable the material to grow and then this turned into a part-time construction yard, if not a full-time.

One. I am concerned about that because then it should not be my responsibility and everyone on the street to have to be the police and constantly calling the town. That's not how community is supposed to be. And I'm going to be frank, put up your money and go pay for a spot at a construction yard. That's why we have them.

That is how that's supposed to go. We're all supposed to be respectful to each other.

What else? I'm trying to think of anything else. I guess the thing that was concerning is, you know, there's seven toilets, but there's only three bathrooms. So what, the Hayles kept replacing toilets and keeping a collection? I don't believe that. So I, I have a hard time trusting that this will not continue and turn into that. And I don't want the neighborhood changed from a residential street to

1

June 20, 2024

2

3

a commercial street. It's not what we pay all this money for. Thank you for your time.

4

5

6

MR. FL

MR. FLEMING: Thank you. Any other

members of the public wish to come forward and  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) +\left( 1\right) +\left($ 

speak? Just state your name and your address.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

MS. DEBORAH SANTUCCI: Hi, I'm Deborah Santucci. I'm the mom, 15 Travis Lane, Montrose, New York. I'm on the street for 41 years. I've passed by there for 41 years and knew the former residents and no, there were no toilets out on the front of that, that house while they lived there. There was no pipe rack on the shed. The, I'd say the fill increased dramatically from what I saw. And my concern is that it's just very evident what this is turning into. This is complete disregard for residential neighborhood. And this is someone that's turning this into a construction yard because that's what they do for a living. We've done this, done this for a living for 45 years. We pay to get our debris hauled away. We never take debris home. We pay to park our trucks. And that is a cost of doing business. It might be difficult, a difficult cost to do,

2.3

2 but it is the cost.

MR. FLEMING: Hold on for one second ma'am. Sorry, if you guys, if you guys want to talk some more step out, we'll certainly wait. If you, if you have to talk to your clients, it's totally fine, but just it's hearing two people at once, it's difficult. Please, please continue, I'm sorry.

MS. SANTUCCI: Thank you. So that's my initial concern because it's visual. It's what you see when you come in my street. You, you drive in and there it is, right there. You make the turn and there it is. I don't want to add to that to have a tremendous garage. We are also builders. I know the 22 by 22 garage size. We like to give 24 by 24, but not 30 by 24. That's something that's being built to do something else inside.

And as far as I respect Mr. Lentini, we've known each other for years. No, you're not supposed to store materials in the garage that are going to be used on a site that are going to be used for your business. That's supposed to be

2.3

stored in a commercial storage facility. And I feel the garage, adding the garage, and I understand people want to store other things, but the precedence that's been set by what has been thrown outside in the front makes my antennas go up. What is the garage being used for? Why can't he use the two garages he has? You know, I, and I understand people have classic cars, they want to store things, but no, no, it's not really good to put materials. Can he not promise that he's going to do that was part of the statement. Well, I don't know. How do you want to leave that?

And what my daughter said, I'm not a cop. I'm not being paid by the town of Cortlandt to go police this and call Martin every three days. It's not the way it should be. And there needs to be some respect for the residential neighborhood we live in. It is not a commercial neighborhood. And that being said, I agree with what my daughter said, the house was beautifully done such in a great improvement on the outside. The Hayles had some terrible issues in their time and the house was in disrepair before Mary Jane

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

2.3

24

sold. I know there was some heartbreak there and this was certainly an improvement. But I'm very concerned about the future of what the intent is, very concerned.

The other thing is the water that's on Montrose Station Road. Montrose Station Road is a killer road. There's no other way to say it. There are people who have died there. It's very dangerous. It's very winding. It is the cut through for all the teenagers from the high school back to lower Washington Street. I've chased a couple down during my 41 years there. There has never been that kind of water in that spot adjacent to the property where that portico and up without a permit. Now there's runoff everywhere and there's ice happening there. It never happened there. So, in being in my business, I know what we have to do. We need to control our water. Everyone is supposed to control their water on their property. That's not happening here.

I would really like some kind of assurance. The zoning board, I know what you do,

2.3

Chris, the planning board, that that gets solved before the winter. It's a very big concern. I'm in and out of there I can't tell you how many times a day. My loved ones, soon to be my granddaughter starting to drive. We can't have that. That's really a big concern.

The other thing is yes, there, I have seen at, at the end of the day, people pulling up in vans, letting working age males out. Is this a drop off? What's going on? And, and listen, I don't, I'm not trying to be picky, but when you do that and then people start walking down the street and they're walking on Montrose Station Road to, I don't know where, this is not what this residential street is supposed to be. And it's not respectful to the residents that live there. I'm sorry. That's, that's just the way I feel. Like I said, people have come and gone on our street for many years and I've never seen this, never.

As far as moving the, the garage next to the house where you suggested probably would be a better place. A big, tremendous thing in the

2.3

front is an eyesore. It's so high. And that's my other question. It's -- the proposal is 24 by 30. What's the height? What kind of vehicles are going to be able to go into this, this proposed garage?

MR. FLEMING: I can tell you the answer to that question, 14 foot at the height.

MR. CHIN: At the peak.

MS. SANTUCCI: Oh, that's pretty high, not, that's not a normal eight or nine foot garage door.

MR. WALSH: Oh, the peak is 14, so yeah.

MS. SANTUCCI: Oh, okay. But it should not, you know. I tried to remember, I'm sorry. That, that really has most of what I want to say. I, I just don't want the -- I don't want Travis Lane to change. There's no reason for it. It's a residential street. It's been that forever. And whoever comes in should abide by that. And also, you know, there's a lot behind this house that I know of, because that's how it was put up for sale. I would like to make sure that the zoning board keeps an eye and the

2.3

June 20, 2024

planning board keeps an eye that things aren't being done to somehow ensure in the future that a septic permit could be gotten or a building permit could be gotten because things have to be moved around, filled in, whatever. I think that that has to be paid attention to. Because I, we know a little bit about the lot and that would just be my comment.

And I ask that you uh, don't make a decision tonight if to approve it. I ask that you think about it and I really would like to ask that you deny it. Thank you.

MR. FLEMING: Thank you for your comments. Anyone else in the public want to speak? Before you before you come up for the applicant? Is there anyone online who wants to speak? No. Okay. Alright. So, basically what I want to do is give you the opportunity to ask for an adjournment. If there's anything you want to address right now, I certainly welcome your comments. But I, I want to ask you if you do want to ask for an adjournment or not.

MR. LENTING: I want to just feel out my

1	June 20, 2024
2	options and I'm thinking that either I would ask
3	for a vote and get denied and put it to bed.
4	MR. FLEMING: Mm-hmm.
5	MR. LENTINI: Or ask for an adjournment
6	and then withdraw our application.
7	MR. FLEMING: Those, those are your two
8	options. I mean, if you think you are going to
9	move it to a place that doesn't require a
10	variance, all you do is withdraw your
11	application.
12	MR. LENTINI: Well then is the third the
13	wild card, is that shed, would I be able to
14	convert our application to a request for that
15	shed if, if in fact I need it?
16	MR. FLEMING: No, I think you'd have to
17	submit a new application, right?
18	MR. CHIN: For the shed on the left
19	MR. KEHOE: Yeah.
20	MR. CHIN: hand side.
21	MR. KEHOE: I'd have to double check.
22	MS. PICCOLO HILL: The one that's three
23	feet?
24	MR. CHIN: Yes.

1	June 20, 2024
2	MS. PICCOLO HILL: The one that's been
3	there.
4	MR. WALSH: The green one next to the,
5	yeah, the next to the septic tank.
6	MR. KEHOE: No, the, isn't there,
7	there's another one coming up the driveway. Is
8	that
9	MR. FLEMING: No, the one coming up the
10	drive, you're not talking about the small dark
11	shed?
12	MR. LENTINI: No, I'm not talking about
13	the one in front, but that one also that's been
14	there forever. Everybody agree
15	MR. KEHOE: Okay. There's two requests.
16	There's the request that we've been focused on
17	and then there's the request for the other small
18	little shed. You know, it's hard to see, but, you
19	know, coming up the driveway.
20	MR. CHIN: That's the shed right there
21	by the front.
22	MR. KEHOE: Yeah. So that one. So there
23	are actually two requests in this variance, to
24	permit the garage that we've been talking about

1 June 20, 2024 2 and to permit that existing shed to remain. You're right. And we, and 3 MR. FLEMING: 4 we did not address, address the, the shed at all. 5 Hang on. MR. KEHOE: So are you asking what the 6 7 zoning board would do with the existing shed? MR. LENTINI: Well, first we were 8 9 prepared to take the 10 by 10 shed if I expected 10 that if there was a possibility of getting 11 approved, we would make it a condition that we 12 would remove that shed that's down by the street. 13 I didn't know about the other shed, but I could 14 also just ask for a vote, get denied, and then 15 have the town come and give me --MR. KEHOE: Alright, sorry --16 MR. LENTINI: -- a violation. 17 18 MR. KEHOE: -- so you were also asking 19 about the newly discovered potential three foot 20 issue on the other shed. 21 MR. LENTINI: Right. And that one I was 22 prepared to take down based on possibly getting 2.3 an approval. Or again, somebody mentioned, I 24 think everybody knows everybody that's been going

by the house, that the shed's been there also for a long time. It might have prior non-conforming rights.  MR. KEHOE: Okay. We're talking, we're talking too many sheds.
rights.  MR. KEHOE: Okay. We're talking, we're
MR. KEHOE: Okay. We're talking, we're
talking too many sheds.
MR. FLEMING: Yeah.
MR. KEHOE: This, this shed over here
by, by the septic field and by this
MR. FLEMING: With the generator in
front of it.
MR. KEHOE: and by this other garage.
MR. WALSH: So that's shed two
MR. LENTINI: Not that one.
MR. FLEMING: Not that, not that one.
MR. KEHOE: Right. You're talking about
this one?
MR. LENTINI: Yes.
MR. FLEMING: That one.
MR. KEHOE: Which based on the survey is
the 2.86 feet
MR. FLEMING: From the, from the line,
which doesn't meet the setback.

1	June 20, 2024
2	even talked to Martin about yet.
3	MR. LENTINI: No.
4	MR. FLEMING: So there's no, there's no
5	violation issued for that right now and there's
6	no variance request
7	MR. KEHOE: And it wasn't applied for.
8	MR. FLEMING: Right.
9	MR. KEHOE: Right. So that can't be
10	resolved in, in
11	MR. FLEMING: In, in this.
12	MR. KEHOE: in this. That's my
13	opinion. And then
14	MR. FLEMING: The other shed, which we
15	haven't talked about is the one
16	MR. KEHOE: And the other shed was
17	actually part of this application.
18	MR. FLEMING: Right.
19	MR. KEHOE: And that's the one located
20	here coming up the driveway. And what were you
21	planning to do with this shed coming up the
22	driveway?
23	MR. LENTINI: Take it down if we had the
24	garage. And then, you know, I understand the

1	June 20, 2024
2	people that live there know a lot more than me.
3	That's why they say justice is blind because
4	everybody doesn't, has never seen what we're
5	talking about, but I haven't at least, but if
6	that shed has any rights right now, we'll
7	withdraw our application and let it stay there
8	and file for the other location. But filing for
9	the other location might produce a request by the
10	town that I take two sheds down.
11	MR. FLEMING: Did the, did the initial
12	letter from Martin address that shed?
13	MR. KEHOE: Yes.
14	MR. CHIN: Yes. Only the front shed
15	MR. FLEMING: And said that it was,
16	it's, it was, it was in violation because
17	MR. KEHOE: Yes. So I, I would think
18	that we would keep this on the agenda.
19	MR. LENTINI: Okay.
20	MR. KEHOE: To deal with the shed
21	issues. You know, you can double check with
22	Martin about the newly discovered one. And then
23	if you withdraw, and this is why I wish
24	Cunningham was here. I mean, I think you could

	Dago b
1	Page 50 June 20, 2024
2	withdraw the application for the big garage, but
3	still come back next month to resolve the shed
4	issues.
5	MR. FLEMING: You can, yeah, because
6	they're, they're two different variances, so.
7	MR. LENTINI: Well, I'll talk to Martin,
8	talk to him. I already spoke to my client and I
9	believe he's amenable to putting the garage where
10	you suggested.
11	MR. CHIN: Okay. What I'm saying,
12	what're saying is also if you adjourn this,
13	alright and, just do all one shot with the garage
14	and another location so forth, you don't have to
15	pay for another application fee. You know what
16	I'm saying? Otherwise, if you want to take that
17	away, then start all over again, you're going to
18	have to reapply with new application fee, to
19	start all over again.
20	MR. LENTINI: Well that's, well I was
21	trying to get something out of this.
22	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Right, but the garage
23	
24	MR. CHIN: Well, I'm just trying to help

	Page 51
1	June 20, 2024
2	you out.
3	MS. PICCOLO HILL: but if he moves
4	the garage, then it's no longer a concern because
5	it's, it doesn't need a variance. But the shed
6	still needs a variance.
7	MR. CHIN: Well it might still need a
8	little variance depending on how far
9	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Possibly, based,
10	based on your design.
11	MR. CHIN: the side yard or front
12	yard may be partially, the side, front yard.
13	MS. PICCOLO HILL: Right.
14	MR. CHIN: I don't know.
15	MR. KEHOE: But that's the other thing
16	that I, I think you, you know, this doesn't have
17	to be resolved by the next meeting.
18	MR. LENTIN: No.
19	MR. KEHOE: But you, you know, you've
20	got to design that and then you've got to talk to
21	Martin. You've got to submit the drawings to
22	Martin, you've got to make sure that the new
23	location of the garage meets all of his
24	requirements.

1 June 20, 2024 2 MR. LENTINI: Right. MR. KEHOE: In the side yard, doesn't 3 4 need any variances. And if you can resolve all that to your satisfaction and to your client's, 5 then that would be off the table. 6 7 MR. LENTINI: I understand. MS. PICCOLO HILL: But you don't have to 8 9 make that decision today. 10 MR. KEHOE: Right. 11 MS. PICCOLO HILL: You can just adjourn 12 and then take time to think about it. 13 MR. LENTINI: And the other issues I'm 14 going to have to deal with the engineering 15 department about all the other issues that were brought up --16 17 MS. PICCOLO HILL: Right. 18 MR. LENTINI: -- including flooding. But 19 that's a kind of a new thing today. There's more 20 rain than we've ever seen before and I've had 21 some real problems with this that can't blame any one person, but it everybody contributes to the 22

lessen it, we certainly will do.

flooding. And if there's anything we could do to

2.3

24

1 June 20, 2024 2 MR. KEHOE: But I, I do think that there was a violation issued, correct. And that 3 4 violation is being held somewhat in abeyance while you're in front of the zoning board. 5 MR. LENTINI: Well that was for paving 6 7 in a little small retaining wall by the front 8 entrance. 9 MR. KEHOE: But Michael's going to want the fill issue resolved. 10 11 MR. LENTINI: Yes. 12 MR. KEHOE: The town engineer. MR. LENTINI: Yes, sir. Yeah. 13 14 MR. KEHOE: And that maybe could have 15 waited for the resolution of the garage and be 16 wrapped up into the construction of the garage. 17 But if the garage isn't happening, then you have 18 to resolve that with Mike in the engineering 19 department. 20 MR. LENTINI: Well, I, I'm going to have 21

to resolve it now because I know the garage is not happening. I, I'm going to have to resolve that. I'll work with him on it.

MR. KEHOE: Okay.

22

2.3

24

1	June 20, 2024
2	MR. CHIN: I'm saying just adjourn the
3	whole thing and come back with something new, you
4	know what I mean?
5	MR. LENTINI: I'd like to request an
6	adjournment then.
7	MR. FLEMING: And that's fine. We'll be
8	happy to grant your adjournment. What is the date
9	for the for the July meeting?
10	MR. KEHOE: It's on the do any of you
11	have the agenda?
12	MR. CHIN: No.
13	MR. FLEMING: I, I'll hold it up, sorry.
14	MR. KEHOE: 18th?
15	MR. CHIN: I have it here somewhere.
16	MR. FLEMING: Give me a second. I'll
17	pull it up.
18	MR. KEHOE: The 18th. It is July 18th.
19	Alright, so we will grant your request to adjourn
20	a decision on this until the July 18, 2024
21	meeting. Certainly any work you want to do before
22	that, if you have anything new to submit to us,
23	we're happy to consider. But I think you're going
24	to do some work with the town in a number of

1 June 20, 2024 2 different ways. So if it's not ready by July, I know we don't, you don't want to hear this, but 3 4 we can go, we, we will happily adjourn it to 5 August, not to make you have to come back here and ask, just talk to Chris and we will happily 6 7 adjourn it to August as well if that gives you 8 more time to, to accomplish what you want to 9 accomplish. 10 MR. LENTINI: I, that's a Thursday. I 11 have other board meetings. I, I might have to 12 adjourn it, but I have, I'm, I'm dealing with 13 something in Buchanan. I don't think I missed 14 something tonight. And I also have an executive 15 meeting because I'm on a town board, the board of 16 assessment review. But I, I'm, this will, this is 17 a priority and I I'll stick with that. 18 MR. FLEMING: Okay. 19 MR. LENTINI: Unless it's impossible. 20 MR. FLEMING: Alright. 21 Mr. LENTINI: So we're fine. 22 MR. FLEMING: Thank You. Okay.

> Geneva Worldwide, Inc. 228 Park Ave S - PMB 27669. New York, NY 10003

MR. FRANCO: Do we need to make a

2.3

24

motion?

1	June 20, 2024
2	MR. LENTINI: Thank you very much.
3	MR. FLEMING: So we do, we need a, we
4	need a motion to adjourn this.
5	MR. FRANCO: Yeah, I make a motion to
6	adjourn.
7	MS. PICCOLO HILL: I second. Oh, I make
8	a motion to adjourn
9	MR. FRANCO: To, to
10	MS. PICCOLO HILL: to the July 18th,
11	MR. FRANCO: July 18th.
12	MS. PICCOLO HILL: meeting.
13	MR. CHIN: That's on case 2024-4.
14	MR. FLEMING: Motion to adjourn
15	seconded. All in favor?
16	MULTIPLE: Aye.
17	MR. FLEMING: Any opposed?
18	MR. LENTINI: Thank you very much.
19	MR. FLEMING: Alright, so this matter
20	has been adjourned to the next meeting. Thank
21	you.
22	MR. LENTINI: Thank you.
23	MR. FLEMING: And since this was the
24	only matter on, I think we need a motion to close

## CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Claudia Marques, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Zoning Board meeting of the Town of Cortlandt on June 20, 2024 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By

Claudia Marques

Date: July 11, 2024

GENEVAWORLDWIDE, INC

228 Park Ave S - PMB 27669

New York, NY 10003