## In the Matter Of:

## VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE - ZBA

## CASE NO. 7-1 DALE DRIVE, FARMINGDALE

July 11, 2024



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## Case No. 7-1 Dale Drive, Farmingdale 07/11/2024

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4	INCORPORATED VIL	LAGE OF FARMINGDALE
5	ZONING BOA	RD OF APPEALS
6	361 Ma	in Street
7	Farmingda	le, New York
8		
9	July	11, 2024
10	8:0	0 p.m.
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12		
13	RE: Case No. 7-1 Dale Dr	ive, Farmingdale, New
14	York	
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25	ACCURATE COURT REPOR	

2	APPEARANCES:
3	DAVID NOSTRAND, Chairman
4	MARISA TULLY, Member
5	MARY CARPENTER, Member
6	CLAUDIO DeBELLIS, ESQ., Zoning Board Attorney
7	NON-APPEARANCE:
8	STEVE FELLMAN, Superintendent of Buildings
9	ALSO PRESENT:
10	MANJINDER KAUR, Legal Assistant,
	WALSH MARKUS MCDOUGAL & DeBELLIS, LLP.
11	1600 Calebs Path, Suite 113
	Hauppauge, New York
12	
13	MICHAEL BUONO, Homeowner,
	For 18 Dale Drive, Farmingdale
14	
15	CHRISTINA BUONO, Homeowner,
	For 18 Dale Drive, Farmingdale
16	
17	JOHN RECINE, Neighbor, Dale Drive, Farmingdale
18	LAUREN RECINE, Neighbor, 14 Dale Drive,
19	Farmingdale
20	DAN CONERS, Neighbor, Dale Drive, Farmingdale
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1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Let's call
3	the meeting to order for July 11,
4	2024.
5	I need a motion to waive the
6	reading of the minutes from the last
7	meeting.
8	MS. TULLY: I make a motion to
9	waive the reading of the minutes from
10	the last meeting.
11	MS. CARPENTER: I second it.
12	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: All in
13	favor?
14	(WHEREUPON, there was a
15	unanimous, affirmative vote of the
16	Board members present. Motion passed
17	3-0.)
18	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Motion
19	carried.
20	Okay. First case is 7-1,
21	Michael Buono, needs a permit for 18
22	Dale Drive, also known as Section 49,
23	Block D, Lots 400 and 401 in a
24	Residence A Zoning District. Requires
25	a variance because it's against Code.

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	So who is here to represent?
3	(WHEREUPON, a member of the
4	assemblage raised a hand to be
5	recognized.)
6	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Okay.
7	MR. BUONO: Michael Buono, 18
8	Dale Drive, and my wife.
9	MS. BUONO: Hi. Christina
10	Buono.
11	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: So our
12	questions start with how did you get
13	here, how did you get this lot?
14	Just out of curiosity, for the
15	history of Farmingdale, how did you
16	acquire this lot?
17	MR. BUONO: Sure. Great
18	questions.
19	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Lot 400.
20	MR. BUONO: Yeah. So Lot 400
21	is the lot, I believe, directly
22	behind my property, which is Lot 401.
23	So my wife and I moved to the
24	Village of Farmingdale back in 2017
25	just after we were married. So we

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	really started to lay some roots here.
3	Fast forward to today, we now have
4	three young boys five, four, and
5	two and-a-half.
6	We love the Village, we love
7	our residence, we love our block. But
8	one of the things that has been
9	lacking for us is an appropriate sized
10	yard to allow our three boys to play
11	in.
12	We became very good friends
13	with the Williamses Barbara and Joe
14	may he now rest in peace and
15	they had acquired that lot many, many
16	years ago. They never did anything
17	with it. It was always on a separate
18	deed, it was always Lot 400.
19	It was overgrown and pretty run
20	down, and it became I had asked him
21	one day about that back piece of
22	property because it was somewhat
23	fenced off from his. And he had
24	mentioned that if ever one day came to
25	pass that he wanted to sell the lot,

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	that he would come to us and ask. And
3	I said that would be ideal. Except,
4	at the time, we had one boy when he
5	had proposed that.
6	When we closed on the lot in
7	March, we had three boys. It made
8	perfect sense. So we completed that
9	transaction in March. We cleaned up
10	the lot I think I put a picture in
11	there and we fenced it in to our
12	actual property.
13	And the next step was that we
14	wanted to then build a pool back there
15	for our family. And when I came to
16	talk to the Village about acquiring a
17	permit, they had mentioned I can't
18	build a pool on a free-standing lot.
19	So I talked to Steve Fellman.
20	He walked me through the process of
21	submitting the application. He told
22	me it would be denied and that I would
23	have to come in front of the Board
24	here to request a variance to merge
25	Lot 400 with Lot 401 so that we could

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	then apply for our pool application,
3	should that variance be approved by
4	you folks here.
5	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: So Mr.
6	Williams was this guy back here
7	(indicating)?
8	MR. BUONO: Correct.
9	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: He owned
10	this little "t"?
11	MR. BUONO: Correct. Yes.
12	And I believe there's a map in there
13	that shows it broken up.
14	MS. CARPENTER: We have the
15	map. We have it.
16	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: So, I
17	guess, they had it forever?
18	MR. BUONO: Yeah. They had it
19	for quite some time. And they had
20	intentions to, I think, develop it,
21	and it never came to fruition.
22	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: It can't
23	be developed.
24	MR. BUONO: Not developed,
25	excuse me, like, clean it up to put a

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	swing set or a pool on it.
3	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: So you've
4	been in this house since 2017?
5	MR. BUONO: Correct.
6	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Okay. Any
7	questions from the Board other than
8	its history?
9	MS. TULLY: So you applied for
10	a permit to merge the lots, not to
11	apply for a permit to install a pool
12	on the lot?
13	MR. BUONO: Correct.
14	MS. TULLY: Why didn't you
15	apply for a permit to install a pool
16	on the lot and then that would get
17	denied. Because we don't the Code
18	doesn't allow merges.
19	MR. BUONO: So I was told by
20	Steve Fellman in the Village that I
21	first needed to apply to have the
22	lots merged, which would be declined.
23	And before I could even apply for
24	the pool permit, I would need to have
25	the lots merged together and then

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	apply for the pool permit.
3	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Okay.
4	MR. DeBELLIS: Wait a minute.
5	So Steve Fellman said to you that you
6	needed to get denied and then you
7	could apply for the permit?
8	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: No. He
9	said if we get this approved tonight
10	to merge them then he would
11	have to come back for the pool.
12	MR. BUONO: Correct.
13	MS. CARPENTER: But it would
14	be denied.
15	MR. BUONO: Correct. He told
16	me it would be denied. Yes. Yes.
17	He walked me through the whole
18	process. That it would be denied,
19	I'd get the letter, and then I'd
20	apply or appeal to the Zoning Board,
21	which is how we are here this
22	evening.
23	(WHEREUPON, there was a sidebar
24	discussion held between Chairman
25	Nostrand, Ms. Tully, and Ms.

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	Carpenter.)
3	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: So the
4	problem we have is this big law about
5	not merging lots. We just have a big
6	problem with that. But there's got
7	to be a way to get this done.
8	I think that the way to do it
9	is a little differently than Mr.
10	Fellman told you. If you were to
11	apply for the pool and get a variance
12	for the pool, that we would definitely
13	have no problem with.
14	MR. BUONO: Okay.
15	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: But you
16	can't
17	MS. TULLY: Most likely.
18	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: It's
19	highly unlikely that you would ever
20	have the ability to develop that back
21	piece because you just can't have
22	flag lots in this Village.
23	MS. BUONO: We have no
24	intention of doing that.
25	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Right.

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	But the next guy might. So that's
3	the thing that we have to consider.
4	You're saying I won't, but the
5	next guy that comes in, he wants to
6	build a house back there. Well, we
7	made the mistake of merging the
8	properties and now you still
9	can't because it's against the law.
10	So that's what we have to look out
11	for.
12	MR. DeBELLIS: It's the same
13	reason that you need more property to
14	build the pool. The same problem
15	happens if you want to put a bigger
16	home on the property. You attach
17	more property, they can build a
18	bigger home. We're not saying or
19	suggesting that's what you're going
20	to do, but that's the concern that
21	they have.
22	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Each piece
23	is about 6,000-square-feet.
24	MS. TULLY: That's a really
25	big piece of property for a pool.

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	MR. DeBELLIS: Do you have
3	plans for the pool?
4	MS. BUONO: No. We haven't
5	spoken with anyone yet. We were,
6	kind of, going through this process,
7	feeling everything out.
8	I mean, we would like to put a
9	swing set for our kids. We'd like to
10	have grass so they're not playing in
11	front of our house. All of those
12	things.
13	This absolutely is already
14	fenced in.
15	We want it to be part of our
16	home. We want this to be our forever
17	home.
18	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: This
19	picture was taken from behind your
20	house (indicating)?
21	MR. BUONO: Correct. That's
22	the lot.
23	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: This is
24	your house (indicating)?
25	MS. BUONO: Yes. That's our

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	patio.
3	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Okay.
4	MS. TULLY: So whether there's
5	an actual legal subdivision between
6	the lots or not, you still own the
7	lot. So you can put grass in and
8	everything.
9	MR. BUONO: Correct.
10	MS. BUONO: Sure. Of course.
11	MS. TULLY: It's the building
12	part of it that
13	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Yeah. I
14	think what we'd like to do is
15	redirect this through the Village
16	and, maybe, modify this application
17	for a pool. And then come back to us
18	again, and then we could consider
19	giving a variance for the pool.
20	Then you'll have two separate
21	lots, two separate tax bills of
22	course. I think we could get that
23	done that way.
24	MS. CARPENTER: Can we do
25	that?

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	MR. DeBELLIS: I think he's
3	already indicated Fellman told him
4	that he can't build a pool on a
5	vacant lot.
6	MS. TULLY: But with a
7	variance.
8	MR. DeBELLIS: The other
9	problem is that Building
10	Superintendent Steve Fellman is not
11	here tonight. He usually is, but he
12	had a death in the family.
13	(WHEREUPON, there was a sidebar
14	discussion held between Ms. Carpenter
15	and Mr. DeBellis.)
16	MR. RECINE: May I speak, sir?
17	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Sure.
18	Just state your name for the record.
19	MR. RECINE: John Recine, 14
20	Dale Drive.
21	I was, actually, part of the
22	original extension of Dale Drive.
23	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Uh-huh.
24	MR. RECINE: We acquired the
25	property from the Ketchums (phonetic)

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	where one of the people who are
3	here today actually resides at and
4	we subdivided the land. Actually, it
5	started out as a four-lot
6	subdivision, and then we acquired
7	property from the Williamses, so this
8	way 16 and 18 could be developed.
9	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Okay.
10	MR. RECINE: So we didn't have
11	the depth in property. So already
12	some property was acquired by them to
13	build their house.
14	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Okay.
15	MR. RECINE: I'm in the field
16	of construction. I know the Village
17	has, I believe, an eight-foot side
18	yard. They would never be able to
19	put a driveway or a flag lot to get
20	to the back.
21	I was born and raised in
22	Farmingdale. My wife is here. Our
23	kids go to Farmingdale schools.
24	MS. RECINE: Our backyards
25	actually touch now. So if it affects

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	anybody
3	MR. RECINE: It's our
4	property.
5	MR. CONERS: I'm on the other
6	side.
7	MR. RECINE: Yeah. They're on
8	the other side. They're bringing
9	their family up just like I did. My
10	oldest just graduated Farmingdale
11	High School, my youngest is starting.
12	I'd love to see them stay and grow
13	and raise their family here.
14	So I know. Like I said, I
15	developed the six houses well,
16	five, I didn't do theirs so there
17	is no way that it's going to be a flag
18	lot that somebody can get down their
19	side yard because it's only an
20	eight-foot setback.
21	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: They
22	couldn't build it there anyway.
23	MR. RECINE: They couldn't
24	build it there anyway. So, I mean,
25	they would just like to get this

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	process going. I'm helping them out,
3	trying to do whatever I can with my
4	experience.
5	I think just letting them put a
6	pool in the backyard for their family
7	for something that can't be developed
8	by anybody, I think for them to come
9	back and lose months and months
10	they'd like to get this thing going
11	and build it, close it for the
12	wintertime, and then have their kids
13	enjoy it for next summer.
14	I really think coming back
15	is if you would give them a little
16	leniency if you're going to give them
17	the variance on just the lot being
18	vacant with the pool, I think it would
19	be greatly appreciated.
20	MS. TULLY: I don't think the
21	issue was necessarily the pool, as
22	we've discussed. It's the merger of
23	the lots.
24	MR. RECINE: And he's only
25	merging the lots because he was told

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	that he can't put a pool on there.
3	MS. TULLY: I understand that.
4	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: I think
5	they were thinking of a different
6	version or a different path.
7	MR. RECINE: Yeah. Right.
8	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: There's a
9	path to this pool, and I'm trying to
10	help you with the path.
11	So let me if the Board
12	agrees with me, give me a couple of
13	days, and we can, maybe, modify this
14	and do this without making it a
15	six-month event.
16	It's one case tonight. Next
17	month, it might not be one case. This
18	is not a big deal.
19	MR. RECINE: Believe me, I've
20	been here plenty of times when we had
21	our subdivision back in 2001.
22	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: We're not
23	the Town of Oyster Bay, we're not
24	Hempstead, we're not that big.
25	MR. RECINE: I know. The

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	Village is 1.1-square-miles. I know
3	it's not large.
4	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: So do the
5	other neighbors want to say
6	something?
7	MR. CONERS: Yeah, I mean, I
8	would just echo that. My name is
9	Daniel Coners, I'm at 22.
10	My fence is the other side of
11	their lot. And I just moved here a
12	couple of years ago with my family.
13	It's a very similar situation to them.
14	I have two young kids.
15	One of the reasons we moved
16	here was our friendship with them.
17	When this house became available, that
18	was one of the main reasons why we
19	moved here. So we, obviously,
20	understand their connections and ties
21	to the community, and we have those as
22	well.
23	So we just wanted to voice our
24	support for their plans.
25	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Thank you.

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	Any more questions?
3	MS. TULLY: No. I don't know
4	how to handle it. I think we have to
5	continue it, technically; right?
6	Is that right?
7	MR. DeBELLIS: Yeah.
8	MS. TULLY: Okay. I'd like to
9	make a motion to continue the
10	decision on Case Number 7-1 until the
11	next official meeting next month. In
12	the meantime, Mr. Nostrand will
13	MS. BUONO: Can I is there
14	anything that we could say to you to
15	reassure you that, like, from what
16	John said, its perspective. We can't
17	build another house. We're not
18	trying to build another house.
19	Like, is there anything that we
20	can say to push this back a month?
21	We've been talking to the
22	Williamses since we moved here about
23	this. This is our dream come true,
24	and it's right here.
25	And I appreciate that there are

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	other avenues. And we certainly would
3	have loved to come in and done that
4	from the beginning, but to have our
5	lot, our home, be on one. It's just
6	cleaner. It just feels better. It's
7	ours.
8	It's just we're not moving.
9	We're not trying to go anywhere. The
10	reason that we acquired this and paid
11	for this and are doing this is so that
12	we don't have to move.
13	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: I
14	understand. We all understand that.
15	But there are things that if we do
16	here, the next person may want to
17	come in and say, oh, they did it for
18	this section. It's called setting a
19	precedent, and we're very careful
20	here to not do that.
21	So what we're doing is
22	protecting the Village from other
23	people doing things that might not be
24	as honest as you are. You want to put
25	in a pool, that's great. We love

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	pools. But there are other people
3	that want to develop and sneak a
4	couple of houses in there.
5	MS. BUONO: I understand. I
6	mean, we're in the middle of a
7	cul-de-sac.
8	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: There's a
9	simple way to fix this. We'll work
10	on that.
11	MS. BUONO: I appreciate that.
12	It's just discouraging to hear that
13	we'll be waiting another month to
14	have to come back.
15	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: I
16	understand. It's frustrating. Our
17	job is to help the Village not get
18	overbuilt in the wrong ways. And
19	there are laws that are in place to
20	keep that from happening.
21	MS. BUONO: I understand.
22	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: And the
23	one that you're asking us to forgive
24	on is one of them. It's not that
25	you're asking too much, it's just I

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	don't think we can do it in this
3	situation. But we can get this done
4	for you.
5	MR. BUONO: So what are the
6	next steps at this point?
7	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Let me
8	speak to the Village tomorrow.
9	MR. BUONO: Okay.
10	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: We'll find
11	out the best direction, and we'll
12	reach out to you.
13	MR. BUONO: So that will be
14	Lynne that reaches out to me or
15	MR. DeBELLIS: No. You'll
16	come back when is the meeting
17	noticed?
18	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Let me see
19	if there's other things we can do.
20	Let's go off the record for a
21	minute.
22	(WHEREUPON, a discussion was
23	held off the record beginning at
24	8:19 p.m. with the proceedings
25	resuming at 8:20 p.m. as follows:)

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Back on
3	the record.
4	We are going to table this
5	case, and we'll speak to you next week
6	about what we're going to do and how
7	we're going to do it.
8	MR. BUONO: Okay. I
9	appreciate that. Thank you very
10	much.
11	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: You may
12	have to come back for one more
13	meeting, but it will be done.
14	MR. BUONO: Okay.
15	MS. TULLY: So I should finish
16	making the motion, or did I finish
17	it?
18	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: I don't
19	think you did. Start over.
20	MS. TULLY: I make a motion to
21	continue the hearing of Case Number
22	7-1 for a final decision to the next
23	meeting of August 8, 2024. In the
24	meantime, Mr. Nostrand is going to
25	look into it a little bit further and

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	mediate it.
3	MS. CARPENTER: I second the
4	motion.
5	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: All in
6	favor?
7	(WHEREUPON, there was a
8	unanimous, affirmative vote of the
9	Board members present. Motion passed
10	3-0.)
11	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Motion
12	carries. Thank you.
13	MR. BUONO: Thank you.
14	MS. BUONO: Thanks.
15	* * * *
16	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Seeing
17	there's no more business, I need a
18	motion to close the meeting.
19	MS. TULLY: I make a motion to
20	close the meeting.
21	MS. CARPENTER: I'll second.
22	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: All in
23	favor?
24	(WHEREUPON, there was a
25	unanimous, affirmative vote of the

1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	Board members present. Motion passed
3	3-0.)
4	CHAIRMAN NOSTRAND: Motion
5	carries.
6	(WHEREUPON, this meeting was
7	concluded at 8:21 p.m.)
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1	ZBA - 7/11/24
2	CERTIFICATE
3	I, TRACIE A. CINQUEMANI, Court
4	Reporter and Notary Public in and for
5	the State of New York, do hereby
6	certify:
7	THAT the within transcript was
8	prepared by me and is a true and
9	accurate record of this hearing to the
10	best of my ability.
11	I further certify that I am not
12	related, either by blood or marriage,
13	to any of the parties in this action;
14	and
15	THAT I am in no way interested
16	in the outcome of this matter.
17	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
18	hereunto set my hand this 11th day of
19	July, 2024. Tracie A. Cinquemani
20	Tracte & C. Sinquemani
21	TRACIE A. CINQUEMANI
22	
23	
24	
25	

		<b>born</b> 15:21
1	A	<b>boy</b> 6:4
<b>1.1-square-miles</b> 19:2	ability 10:20	<b>boys</b> 5:4,10 6:7
<b>11</b> 3:3	absolutely 12:13	bringing 16:8
<b>14</b> 14:19	acquire 4:16	broken 7:13
<b>16</b> 15:8	acquired 5:15 14:24 15:6,12	<b>build</b> 6:14,18 11:6,14,17 14:4 15:13 16:22,24 17:11 20:17,18
<b>18</b> 3:21 4:7 15:8	21:10	building 13:11 14:9
	acquiring 6:16	
2	actual 6:12 13:5	<b>Buono</b> 3:21 4:7,9,10,17,20 7:8, 11,18,24 8:5,13,19 9:12,15 10:14, 23 12:4,21,25 13:9,10 20:13 22:5, 11,21 23:5,9,13
<b>2001</b> 18:21	affects 15:25	
<b>2017</b> 4:24 8:4	affirmative 3:15	11,21 23.5,9,13
<b>2024</b> 3:4	agrees 18:12	С
<b>22</b> 19:9	and-a-half 5:5	
	appeal 9:20	call 3:2
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