

Case 25-11 Parcel #11-27-400-022

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From Mark Overberg [REDACTED]  
Date Mon 6/16/2025 11:33 AM  
To Planning Shared Mailbox <Planning@HighlandTwp.org>

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Mark Overberg  
1720 Pettibone Lake Rd.  
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing today regarding the request for variance being made by my next door neighbor at 1736 Pettibone Lake Rd. I have reviewed the paperwork on file at the Twp. Offices and I would like to make a couple of points.

The current home is already well into the 40' setback as is mine, as bought. The prior covered porch and deck that were on the home were removed at least 8 years ago. They were structurally unusable due to neglect and were never "living space" to the current residents. Claims that "the township forced this hardship" are ridiculous, and if that space was indeed important to them, it should have been renovated 8 years ago when they instead opted to simply remove it. There is no "grandfathering" here. Instead, they chose instead to buy a 2<sup>nd</sup> home in Montana. Not my business, but the additional variance is, for a number of reasons.

Reason enough should be that I have been enjoying the additional buffer between us for the majority of their tenure there, and no hardship actually exists that justifies changing that. I should probably add that decreasing the already close distance significantly enhances the risk of a fire jumping between the dwellings. A risk I understand well given my own fire experience here. Fire safety is important to the board from what I have learned.

Additionally, I have taken issue with this neighbor over noise. Several huskies that like to howl in the middle of the night on occasion. Sometimes when let out intentionally, almost directly below our bedroom windows. I have requested they address the light pollution from the 4 or 5 unshielded outdoor lights they run through the entire night. These conditions still occur.

I worry that the dog issue and light issue will only become worse with the addition of the porch and deck they propose on the side of the house facing my property.

This property already has an additional 4 or 5 outbuildings that are in need of repair and maintenance. I imagine additional requests of variance or incoming for those as well.

I am going to be pro-active and dogged in my resistance, as another variance requested by my neighbor on the other side was granted despite my objection and despite him already having two structures well in violation of the setback requirements. That turned into a humiliating popularity contest after a delay was granted and that neighbor rallied other neighbor who are not even affected by his new pole barn. This neighbor through the appeals board had already "renovated" a small lakefront shed into a two story lakefront home nearly the size of his already existing home. BOTH structures within 20' of our property line. Now a 3rd structure pole barn 4x the residence size, for excess Amazon toys, within 21'. So I won't be wasting my time at any meetings cum popularity contests as my neighbors are well aware of my privacy concerns. They can feel how they like about me.

I will be questioning any further setback violations directly with the township supervisor and the zoning board themselves. I assume these setbacks are established to ensure privacy, property value concerns and fire safety concerns. I do not believe the appeals board is safeguarding those things as they should.

Best regards,  
Mark Overberg