

Dickinson County Board of Adjustment

February 24, 2025

7:00 P.M.

The Dickinson County Board of Adjustment met Monday February 24, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. in the community room of the Dickinson County Courthouse.

The members present were Jeff Ashland, Alex Oponski, Kirby Berhow, Susan Clark and Douglas Westerman. Also in attendance were Megan Kardell, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Lee McKim, Dickinson County Zoning Assistant and Steven Goodlow, Dickinson County Attorney.

Jeff Ashland, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the opening statement.

First on the agenda Roll Call

Second on the agenda was New Business:

1. 10941 Crowley LLC, c/o Michael Lester. Lots 5 & 6 Martha Yarns Memorial Beach, Dickinson County, Iowa. Parcel Numbers 0311476024 & 0311476023.The address of the principal structure is 10941 Crowley Avenue, Spirit Lake, IA.

Michael Lester approached the podium. Lester explained that his family has been on Spirit Lake since 1992, and they previously leased the property from Reister's. Lester stated that after his parents had passed, the siblings decided to build a year-round home as they had purchased the land and the cabin. Lester explained they would remove the cabin and put a new house structure with a 2-car garage, with a 2-bedroom loft above the garage. Lester stated he has been a general contractor for the last 40 years and he would like to continue the family legacy in this community and move family members closer. Lester explained how they talked to neighbors as not to impede on sight line. As well as to deal with the "knob" of land that is there, by having the land geo tested to help determine the foundation.

Berhow asked about the power lines. Lester stated they will have a tree removed and then place the power lines further south.

Westerman asked about parking spaces and where the cars would go. Lester explained the intent is to buy the two lots across the street and put up another shop for storage and parking.

Oponski asked about the sisters with special needs. Lesters stated 1 sister is in a group home, and the other sister is in assisted living, she wants to move closer to a new assisted living. Lester stated that his oldest sister, that is in attendance drives to help them and its getting difficult as she gets older.

Kardell read the correspondence of letters from Wagner Partnership c/o Cindy Schonig, Scott and Susan Lichty, Doug and Sherry Nelson.

There was no public comment.

Berhow motioned to vote and seconded by Clark. The votes are Ashland, Clark, Oponski, Westerman and Berhow. The votes are 5-0 approved.

2. John & Kelly Bentz, Lot 1 Blk 1, Methodist Camp, Dickinson County, Iowa. Parcel Number 0601185004. The address of the principal structure is 21325 S Park Drive, Spirit Lake, IA.

Kardell read an email correspondence from John & Kelly Bentz asking to table this variance, to the March meeting. Motioned by Oponski and seconded by Berhow. All in Favor, Ashland, Clark, Oponski, Westerman, Berhow.

Third item on the agenda is Old or unknown business. There is none.

Fourth item on the agenda is Approval of January 27, 2025, minutes. Clark motioned to approve the minutes and Berhow seconded. All in favor, Ashland, Berhow, Clark, Oponski and Westerman.

Fifth on the agenda is Communications Kardell explained to the board that the Iowa State University training is coming up in April and it would be good for them to attend. Ashland, Westerman and Clark will attend.

Kardell talked about transparency that was brought up by the Board of Supervisors last week and to have our meetings livestreamed. Kardell clarified that we do have audio recordings and have a history of the recordings. Kardell asked for input from the board. Discussion with the board members and county attorney, in agreement to have the audio recordings only.

Sixth item on the agenda was Adjournment.

Berhow motioned to adjourn, Oponski seconded the motion. All were in favor, Ashland, Berhow, Clark, Oponski, Westerman.

(For more information, see BOA 02 24 25)