

Area Variance Application – Zoning Board of Appeals, Town of Ontario

Org. 3/2000; Rev. 5/2007, Rev. 4/2008

Applicant Information – Please type or print

I (We) _____ of _____
(Name) (Mailing Address)

(Telephone) (Alternate contact number)

hereby appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Ontario, NY a decision of the Code Enforcement Officer of the Town of Ontario, who did: **GRANT** ☐ **DENY** ☐ an official permit for **USE** ☐, **OCCUPANCY** ☐, **BUILDING PERMIT** ☐. The affected property is located at:

(Specific Location) (Tax Account Number) (Zone)

Appeal of the Code Enforcement Officer of the Town of Ontario dated _____

Applicant Comments – General Description of Project (Please type or print)

Do ZBA members have permission to inspect your property? _____ YES _____ NO (Please Initial)

Does the Code Enforcement Officer have permission to inspect your property? _____ YES _____ NO (Please Initial)

Is property located within 500 feet of a municipal boundary or on a state or county road? _____ YES _____ NO

Application Fee is Non-refundable **Application Fee is Non-refundable** **Application Fee is Non-refundable**

Notary Stamp Here

(Applicant's signature)

(Date)

State of New York, County of Wayne; sworn to me this _____ day of _____, 20_____.
(Notary Public)

BUILDING DEPT. USE ONLY

Fee Paid:

Rec. by:

MEETING DATE/TIME:

Decision Validation

Meeting Location: Ontario Town Hall, 1850 Ridge Rd., Ontario, NY 14519

AREA VARIANCE FACTORS:

Address the following five (5) factors, as they relate to your application. Use an additional sheet, if necessary.

1. Whether an undesirable change will be produced in the character of the neighborhood or a detriment to nearby properties will be created by the granting of the area variance.

2. Whether the benefit sought by the applicant can be achieved by some method, feasible for the applicant to pursue, other than an area variance.

3. Whether the requested area variance is substantial.

4. Whether the proposed area variance will have an adverse effect or impact on the physical or environmental conditions in the neighborhood or district.

5. Whether the need for the variance was self-created or was caused by factors outside the control of the applicant. (NOTE: An area variance may be granted even if the need for it was self-created.)

OWNER AUTHORIZATION

VARIANCE APPLICATION TOWN OF ONTARIO ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The undersigned, as property owner, hereby gives authorization to the following applicant to make application to the Town of Ontario Zoning Board of Appeals for the following Variance request(s):

Applicant Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Tax Parcel Number: _____

Variance(s) Requested: _____

Date: _____

Owner Signature

SAMPLE LETTER TO NEIGHBORS

Mr. & Mrs. Applicant
123 Main Street
Ontario, New York 14519

Date: _____

Mr. & Mrs. Neighbor
125 Main Street
Ontario, New York 14519

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Neighbor:

We are making an application to the Ontario Zoning Board of Appeals for an "Area Variance" which we need in order to _____.

Since your property is close to ours, we wanted to let you know of our application and so you can provide the Zoning Board with any comments, should you so desire.

Enclosed is a copy of our application materials, which we submitted to the Zoning Board, for you to review. Our request is on the Zoning Board calendar, for their meeting on _____.

If you do not have any objection to our request, we would appreciate your signing the "consent" at the bottom of this letter and returning it to us.

Naturally, in the event that you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with us.

Very truly yours,

Mr. & Mrs. Applicant

We consent to the application
Dated: _____

Mr. & Mrs. Neighbor

SAMPLE CONFIRMATION OF DELIVERY TO NEIGHBORS

To: Ontario Zoning Board of Appeals

From: Mr. & Mrs. Applicant

Re: Area Variance for 123 Main Street, Ontario, New York 14519

Date: _____

This will confirm that we have delivered copies of our Area Variance application to neighbors of our property.

We personally delivered copies of our application to the following neighbors, who have signed this document, acknowledging receipt:

_____ Signature of Neighbor	_____ Address of Neighbor
_____ Signature of Neighbor	_____ Address of Neighbor
_____ Signature of Neighbor	_____ Address of Neighbor

We sent a copy of the Application to the following neighbors, by mail. If sent "certified mail", receipts received are attached.

_____ Name of Neighbor	_____ Address of Neighbor
_____ Name of Neighbor	_____ Address of Neighbor
_____ Name of Neighbor	_____ Address of Neighbor

Dated: _____
Signature of Applicant

**GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL APPLICANTS
SEEKING APPROVAL OF AN
AREA VARIANCE
FROM THE
TOWN OF ONTARIO ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES WILL IN NO WAY GUARANTEE APPROVAL OF
AN APPLICATION. IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE BOARD
OF APPEALS TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO MAKE ITS DECISION.

Section 1— General Information

The Zoning Board of Appeals generally meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. local time at the Ontario Town Hall, 1850 Ridge Road, Ontario, New York 14519. A schedule of meetings is adopted each year and is available upon request.

The burden of proof for all applications is on the applicant, who should be prepared at the time of the public hearing to describe the application, state the necessity for the application, and show compliance with the applicable tests for approval. The applicant, or the applicant's authorized agent, must appear at all public hearings held on the application.

The requirements set out in this packet for applications to the Zoning Board of Appeals are not to be considered all-inclusive. Depending on the nature and scope of a particular application, the Zoning Board may request more information of the applicant.

A complete package of application materials must be filed with the Clerk of the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Ontario on or before the submission deadline for the required hearing date. A schedule of public hearing dates, including submission deadlines, is available from the Zoning Board of Appeal's Clerk. An application to the Zoning Board of Appeals will not be accepted unless all required materials have been submitted. All application materials will be available for public review.

Approximately seven (7) days prior to the public hearing, a sign will be posted, by a company hired by the Town, in a conspicuous location on the subject property indicating that an application is pending. This sign should be maintained on the property until the date of the hearing.

Section 2 — Application Procedure

A complete application consists of the following forms and documentation. Seven (7) copies of each form or document should be collated into packets no larger than 8 1/2" by 11", with the exception of maps and/or plans.

A. **CEO Determination** – The Code Enforcement Officer must be shown the plans for any proposed changes to the property or for any proposed changes to the use on the property. The CEO will make a determination as to any and all variances that are needed and will provide a written “Notice of Decision” indicating the current zoning of the property and the required variances needed to allow the proposed changes.

B. **Application** - The two (2) page “Area Variance Application Form”, filled out completely and accurately. The Application includes a section addressing the 5 “factors” required by law to be considered by the Board. The application must be either typed or clearly printed, attaching additional sheets if the space provided on the form is insufficient.

C. **Authorization to Make Application** – If the applicant is not the owner of the property, the “Authorization to Make Application” form must be completed and signed by the owner and included as part of the application.

D. **Survey Map** – A signed and/or sealed Survey Map, prepared by a professional engineer or licensed land surveyor, accurately showing the current status of the property, including the setbacks (the closest distance between the nearest property line and the structural wall closest to that property line) of all such existing structures.

All instrument surveys shall include the following information for the property:

1. Front, side and rear property lines with lengths indicated.
2. All structures.
3. Front, side and rear setbacks of all structures.
4. Easements.
5. Driveways.
6. Any abutting roads, public and/or private.
7. North arrow and scale.
8. Distance of structural wall on most affected abutting property from common property line.

E. **Sketch Drawing** - A Sketch, drawn to scale and signed, showing any proposed new structure or additions to an existing structure. This is best accomplished by having a licensed land surveyor add the information to an existing Survey Map.

F. **Architectural Elevations** – If the variance requested concerns a new building or an addition to an existing building, architectural elevations, with scale indicated, should be submitted, to provide the Board an accurate visual representation of the applicant’s proposal.

G. **SEORA Compliance** – The Code Enforcement Officer or Zoning Board Clerk will advise you as to whether the application is subject to special New York State environmental review procedures (SEORA). If so, you will need to complete and submit the “Environmental Assessment” form.

H. **Sign Posting** – At least seven (7) prior to the hearing, a sign will be posted in a conspicuous place on the property. The sign will be provided by the Town and posted by a company hired by the Town. The sign will need to remain posted until the day on the hearing. The sign will be removed by the sign posting company. There is a \$25.00 sign posting fee.

I. **Notification and Consent of Neighbors** – It is strongly recommended that you notify all neighbors that adjoin and/or might be affected by the Area Variance requested. This may be done by personally delivering or mailing a copy of the application materials to each neighbor. You may also request that neighbors sign a written “consent” to the application. You may use the “Samples” provided as a guide in sending the copies out, obtaining “consents” and confirming to the Board that you have notified neighbors.

J. **Fee** - Submission of the appropriate application fee, in accordance with the current fee schedule. This fee covers the cost of the legal advertisement and part of the administrative costs involved. The check should be made payable to the “TOWN OF ONTARIO”.

Section 3 – State Law Requirements

The State of New York requires that Zoning Boards review every Area Variance request by examining five “Tests.” These tests are reflected in the Application form referred to in paragraph “B” in the prior Section of these instructions. You may wish to review the State Law requirements for Area Variances, which appear below.

New York State Town Law Section 267-b

Power To Grant Area Variances 3. Area variances. (a) The zoning board of appeals shall have the power, upon an appeal from a decision or determination of the administrative official charged with the enforcement of such ordinance or local law, to grant area variances, as defined herein.

Tests For Granting Area Variances

(b) In making its determination, the zoning board of appeals shall take into consideration the benefit to the applicant if the variance is granted, as weighed against the detriment to the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood or community by such grant.

In making such determination the board shall also consider: (1) whether an undesirable change will be produced in the character of the neighborhood or a detriment to nearby properties will be created by the of the area variance; (2) whether the benefit sought by the applicant can be achieved by some method, feasible for the applicant to pursue, other than an area variance; (3) whether the requested area variance is substantial; (4) whether the proposed variance will have an adverse effect or impact on the physical or environmental conditions in the neighborhood or district; and (5) whether the alleged difficulty was self-created, which consideration shall be relevant to the decision of the board of appeals, but shall not necessarily preclude the granting of the area variance.

Minimum Variance Necessary (c) The board of appeals, in the granting of area variances, shall grant the minimum variance that it shall deem necessary and adequate and at the same time preserve and protect the character of the neighborhood and the health, safety and welfare of the community.

Power To Impose Conditions 4. Imposition of conditions. The board of appeals shall, in the granting of both use variances and area variances, have the authority to impose such reasonable conditions and restrictions as are directly related to and incidental to the proposed use of the property, and/or the period of time such variance shall be in effect. Such conditions shall be consistent with the spirit and intent of the zoning ordinance or local law, and shall be imposed for the purpose of minimizing any adverse impact such variance may have on the neighborhood or community.

The State of New York also requires that any applicant for an Area Variance provide notification if the applicant (or an officer or employee of a corporate applicant) is connected with a municipality. The Application form referred to in paragraph "B" of the prior Section of these instructions includes a place to disclose this information, if it applies. You may wish to review the State Law requirements for this disclosure, set forth below.

New York State General Municipal Law - Section 809

1. Every application, petition or request submitted for a variance, amendment, change of zoning, approval of a plat, exemption from a plat or official map, license or permit, pursuant to the provisions of any ordinance, local law, rule or regulation constituting the zoning and planning regulations of a municipality shall state the name, residence and the nature and extent of the interest of any state officer or any officer or employee of such municipality or of a municipality of which such municipality is a part, in the person, partnership or association making such application, petition or request (hereinafter called the applicant) to the extent known to such applicant.
2. For the purpose of this section an officer or employee shall be deemed to have an interest in the applicant when he, his spouse or their brothers, sisters, parents, children, grandchildren or the spouse of any of them
 - (a) Is the applicant, or
 - (b) is an officer, director, partner or employee of the applicant, or
 - (c) legally or beneficially owns or controls stock of a corporate applicant or is a member of a partnership or association applicant, or
 - (d) is a party to an agreement with such an applicant, express or implied, whereby he may receive any payment or other benefit, whether or not for services rendered, dependent or contingent upon the favorable approval of such application, petition or request.
3. Ownership of less than five percent of the stock of a corporation whose stock is listed on the New York or American Stock Exchanges shall not constitute an interest for the purposes of this section.
4. A person who knowingly and intentionally violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.