



## REDWOOD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

*Planning & Zoning • Parks & Trails • GIS  
Aquatic Invasive Species • Septic Inspector  
Drainage Inspector • Agricultural Inspector*

PO BOX 130  
REDWOOD FALLS  
MINNESOTA 56283  
PH: 507-637-4023

### REDWOOD COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

#### MINUTES

**Meeting Date: July 25, 2022**

A meeting of the Redwood County Board of Adjustment convened on Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022. The meeting consisted of one public hearing. The meeting was convened at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery site in Redwood Falls. The following Board of Adjustment members were present: John Schueller, John Rohlik and Dan Tauer. The following individuals were also present: David Swantek, Rick Morris, Roger Pabst, and Redwood County Land Use & Zoning Supervisor Nick Brozek.

At 8:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Chair John Schueller.

Chair Schueller opened a public hearing on an *Applications for Variance*, Permit Application Nos. 2-22v and 3-22v, submitted by David Swantek, of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. Prior to the Board of Adjustment meeting, the Board of Adjustment members were provided an informational packet which included the following information regarding the matter:

1. David Swantek, Deputy Director of Memorial Affairs at the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted two variance applications in connection with the MN State Veterans Cemetery being constructed near Redwood Falls. The first (Variance Application #2-22v) is for a committal shelter building, which will not meet the required 150' setback from Crow Creek. The second (Variance Application #3-22v) is for a monument sign to be constructed on the corner of US Hwy 71 and Noble Avenue, which will not meet the required 10' setback from the road right-of-way and will exceed the 64 square foot sign size maximum in the Urban Expansion District.
2. The base of the committal shelter will be about 112 feet from the ordinary high water level of Crow Creek. However, Redwood County Code of Ordinances, based on State Statute, requires a setback of at least 150 feet. Therefore, Mr. Swantek is requesting a variance of 38 feet from the required setback from Crow Creek.
3. The monument sign will be constructed about 8 feet from the edge of the MNDOT right-of-way on the corner of US Hwy 71 and Noble Avenue. The sign will be at an angle, facing to the northeast, to match the angle of the right-of-way, which MNDOT acquired for a "sight corner."
4. The sign will consist of metal letters affixed to a stone sign backer built into a stone monument (fence) structure. The sign lettering will be 33' long and 1.5' tall. The stone sign backer will be 35' long and 2.83' tall. Redwood County Code of Ordinances stipulates that "if letters or graphics be mounted directly on a wall or fascia or in such a way as to be without a frame the dimensions for calculating the square footage shall be the area extending six inches beyond the periphery formed around the letters or graphics." This results in a total sign face area of at least 85 square feet, not including the stone sign backer.

5. A public hearing will be held on July 25, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. regarding an Applications for Variance filed by David Swantek pursuant to Redwood County Code of Ordinances, Title XV, Section 153.027, to the required maximum sign face size and setback between a sign and the public road right-of-way, set forth in Title XV, Section 153.310; and requesting a variance, pursuant to Redwood County Code of Ordinances, Title XV, Section 153.244(C), to the required setback between a structure and the bank of Crow Creek, set forth in Title XV, Section 153.246(B).
6. Pursuant to Redwood County Ordinance, written notice shall be provided to all property owners of record within five hundred (500) feet of the affected property via U.S. Mail as to the time and place of the public hearing. Further, written notice shall also be provided to the affected board of township supervisors and the municipal council of any municipality within two (2) miles of the affected property. Because the project is related to the shore land setback from Crow Creek, notice was also required to be sent to the DNR.

The following information was presented to and considered by the Redwood County Board of Adjustment at the public hearing:

David Swantek was present to explain the project. He made the following statements about the applications:

- The proposed sign will be located on the corner of Hwy 71 and the County Road (Noble Avenue).
- The main entrance to the cemetery will be on the county road, because MNDOT didn't want any additional entrances on Hwy 71.
- The purpose of the sign is to provide a presence on the Hwy, so the site is easier for people to find.
- The monument sign will be constructed out of limestone with stainless steel lettering.
- The sign will be lit from the ground.
- It will include the state seal.
- The total sign face area is about 100 square feet, which is 35 or so square feet more than is allowed in this zoning district.
- The setback from the right-of-way will be met. It recently was discovered that Arvig has a communications line in that area, which will require the sign to be built a couple feet further from the road than originally planned.
- The committal service shelter will be used for the memorial services prior to burial.
- Services aren't held at the actual grave site, they are all held at the committal shelter.
- There is space for mourners to gather, parking, and a paved area for the honor guard.
- The remains are then moved to the burial site from the committal shelter after the service.
- The committal shelter structure will be 112.9' from the bank of Crow Creek, which is short of the required 150' setback.
- The shelter building will be mostly open-air structure, with a small enclosed storage area.
- Some vegetation will be removed along the creek to open up a view from the shelter.

Rick Morris and Roger Pabst were present on behalf of Paxton Township. Morris stated that the township receives a lot of citizen inquiries about the groundwater and potential water use on the cemetery site.

Swantek responded that they are constructing a large storm water pond which will be used for irrigation. All the surface water on the site will be diverted away from the creek, and into the pond, which will have an overflow into the creek. The prairie grasses that will be planted on a large part of the site need less water than typical lawn grasses.

No one spoke in opposition to the variance.

Tauer made a motion to approve a both variances. The motion was seconded by Rohlik and the variance was approved by unanimous vote.

Discussion was held regarding the Minutes of the Board of Adjustment meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022. On a motion made by Tauer and seconded by Rohlik, it was moved and passed unanimously that said minutes be approved as presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Brozek, Land Use and Zoning Supervisor  
Redwood County Environmental Office



\_\_\_\_\_  
John Schueller, Chair  
Redwood County Board of Adjustment