

## **NOTE TO ALL VARIANCE APPLICANTS:**

Please make sure that the plans that you include with your variance request – floor plans and elevations – are the same as the plans that you will be submitting for your building permits.

When the board grants a variance, it includes conditions that the plans are approved “exactly as presented” and that the plans submitted to the building department shall be the same as those approved by the board.

Any changes to the plans after the variance is granted cannot be approved administratively and would mean that you would have to return to the board for an additional variance.

**RIDGEFIELD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING A VARIANCE APPLICATION**

A complete variance application consists of the following:

1. A completed application form which shall include:  
The "Review by the Zoning Enforcement Officer" form signed by the ZEO.  
When construction is involved, a completed FAR, lot coverage and setback calculation sheet.
2. Six copies of a plot plan showing the location of all existing and proposed buildings, with sizes drawn to scale. If setbacks are involved, a survey showing exact setback distances from the property lines to the nearest point of any proposed construction is required. Check with the Administrator.
3. When construction is involved, six copies of drawings to scale showing elevations and floor plans. Please note that the size of these plans should not exceed 11" x 17".
4. One application is required whenever a single property is involved and the request covers only one structure on the property. Separate applications are required for each structure if variances are needed for more than one structure on a single property.
5. As of June 1, 2008, all property owners within 100 ft. of any property line shall be notified of the variance petition. Notification will be done by the ZBA office and fees for such notification are shown below.
6. As of February 1, 2017, the application fees are as follows. **Checks should be made payable to the Town of Ridgefield.** The application fees are subject to change.

Residential: Single Family	\$205
Multi-Family	\$230
Commercial Uses:	\$280
State Fee:	\$60
Neighbor Notification: 1 - 15 neighbors	\$35
Over 15 neighbors	\$1 per address
7. It is your responsibility to verify whether your property is subject to any conservation or preservation restrictions or easements. If it is, the requirements of Public Act 05-124 shall apply. This Act requires, in pertinent part, that

"No person shall file a permit application with a state or local land use agency...other than for interior work in an existing building...that does not alter the footprint...relating to property that is subject to a conservation restriction or a preservation restriction unless the applicant provides proof that the applicant has provided written notice of such application, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the party holding such restriction not later than sixty days prior to the filing of the permit application. In lieu of such notice, the applicant may submit a letter from the holder of such restriction or from the holder's authorized agent, verifying that the application is in compliance with the terms of the restriction...If the applicant fails to comply..., the party holding the easement may file an appeal with the agency... The agency...shall reverse the permit approval upon a finding that the requested land use violates the terms of such restriction."

A full copy of Public Act 05-124 is available in the ZBA office for your convenience, or will be sent by email upon request.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

1. If you fall within one of the watershed areas within Ridgefield, you are required by law to notify the appropriate water company. Instructions and a copy of a sample letter are available in the ZBA office. You may also be required to provide online notification to the CT DPH. Check with the ZBA office
2. Obtaining a variance does not waive the requirement for other permits. You should check with the Health Department, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Wetlands Agent and Building Inspector to determine what other action may be required.
3. In the case of some signs, you may be required to appear before the Architectural Advisory Committee. If you fall within a Historic District, you may be required to appear before the Historic District Commission. Please check with the Zoning Enforcement Officer.



**RIDGEFIELD BOARD OF APPEALS ON ZONING**

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877  
Phone: (203) 431-2786 Fax: (203) 431-2737  
E-Mail: zba@ridgefieldct.org

**APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Premises Located at: \_\_\_\_\_  
Closest cross street or nearest intersecting road: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Interest in Property:  
owner \_\_\_\_\_ contract purchaser \_\_\_\_\_ lessee \_\_\_\_\_ agent \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner of Record: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Tax Assessor Map No: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Zone in which property is located \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Lot (acres) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Dimensions of Lot: Frontage \_\_\_\_\_ Average Depth \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) If this is residential property: single family \_\_\_\_\_ multi-family \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Does this proposal involve the demolition of an existing building? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Is property within 500 feet of Danbury, Wilton, Redding? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is property within 500 feet of New York State? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Have any previous petitions been filed on this property? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, give dates and/or variance numbers: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Is this property subject to any wetlands, conservation or preservation restriction? \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Do you give Board members permission to visit the property? \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) Describe variance being requested: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
Or Signature of Agent \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZONE \_\_\_\_\_

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
**LOT CALCULATIONS**

**TO BE COMPLETED WHEN VARIANCES OF FAR,  
LOT COVERAGE OR SETBACKS ARE BEING REQUESTED.**

**(A partial listing of the zoning requirements and definitions are on the reverse side of this form)**

**SETBACKS**

	Required	Existing	Proposed	Deficiency
Front N/S/E/W*				
Side N/S/E/W*				
Side N/S/E/W*				
Rear N/S/E/W*				

\* circle the direction that applies.

**FAR**

Lot size in square feet:	
Permitted FAR in sq. ft. (see reverse side)	
Existing FAR in sq. ft:	
FAR of proposed addition in sq. ft.	
Total Proposed FAR (line 3 + line 4)	

**COVERAGE**

Lot size in square feet:	
Permitted coverage in sq. ft. (see reverse side)	
Existing coverage in sq. ft.	
Coverage of proposed addition in sq. ft:	
Total Proposed Lot Coverage (lines 3 + line 4)	

see reverse side

**NOTE: This is a partial listing of setback, FAR and lot coverage requirements. For any additional requirements, please consult the complete zoning regulations.**

**SETBACK REQUIREMENTS:**

Zone	Front	Side & Rear
<b>RAAA</b>	50	50
<b>RAA</b>	35	35
<b>RA</b>	25	25
<b>R20</b>	25	20
<b>R10</b>	25	12
<b>R7.5</b>	25	8

**Setbacks:** the shortest distance between any part of a building or structure and the nearest lot line or recorded right of way. Thus open decks and porches as well as all cornices, eaves, gutters, chimneys or similar appurtenances shall meet the minimum setbacks.

**FAR REQUIREMENTS:**

Lot Area	Allowed FAR Coverage
Less than 7,500 SF	40% of the lot area
7,500 to 9,999 SF	3,000 SF plus 12.0% of the lot area in excess of 7,500 SF
10,000 to 19,999 SF	3,300 SF plus 9.0% of the lot area in excess of 10,000 SF
20,000 to 43,559 SF	4,200 SF plus 7.0% of the lot area in excess of 20,000 SF
43,560 to 87,119 SF	5,850 SF plus 6.0% of the lot area in excess of 43,560 SF
87,120 to 130,679 SF	8,464 SF plus 6.0% of the lot area in excess of 87,120 SF
130,680 or more SF	11,077 SF plus 6.0% of the lot area in excess of 130,680 SF

**FAR (floor area ratio)** is the ratio of the total floor area to the total area of the lot, in square feet.

**Total floor area** is the area in square feet of ALL floors in ALL buildings measured to the outside of the exterior walls, excluding attics, basements and open porches. Note: Any horizontal area of a residential building with an interior height from floor to ceiling exceeding 16 ft. shall be considered to have one floor per multiple of 8 ft.

**An open porch** has a roof but is not enclosed with screens or windows. Porches enclosed with screens or windows must be counted towards total floor area.

**COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS:**

Lot Area	Allowed Lot Coverage
Less than 7,500 SF	16% of the lot area
7,500 to 9,999 SF	1,225 SF plus 10.0% of the lot area in excess of 7,500 SF
10,000 to 19,999 SF	1,475 SF plus 6.0% of the lot area in excess of 10,000 SF
20,000 to 43,559 SF	2,075 SF plus 5.8% of the lot area in excess of 20,000 SF
43,560 to 87,119 SF	3,440 SF plus 5.0% of the lot area in excess of 43,560 SF
87,120 to 130,679 SF	5,618 SF plus 4.5% of the lot area in excess of 87,120 SF
130,680 or more SF	7,578 SF plus 4.5% of the lot area in excess of 130,680 SF

**Lot coverage** is the percentage which the aggregate (total) building area of all buildings on the lot bears to the area of the lot – a ratio of the total building area to the total lot area.

**Building** is any structure which has one or more floors and a roof and is intended for the shelter, housing or enclosure of persons, animals or materials. Open porches with roofs count towards lot coverage.

**Building Area** is the maximum horizontal cross section of a building on a lot, measured to the outside of the exterior walls, except that up to eighteen (18) inches of projections for cornices, eaves, gutters, chimneys or similar appurtenances shall be excluded.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
**APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE**

**REVIEW BY THE ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

VARIANCE APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
ZONING DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSAL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF REVIEW: \_\_\_\_\_

ZEO COMMENTS:

Please note that based on the information provided by the applicant, this proposal would fail to meet the following zoning requirements.\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Baldelli  
Zoning Enforcement Officer

**\*\*NOTE:**

*The information on this form is to guide the variance applicant and the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding a variance application and is based upon representations made by the applicant.*

*A full review of an application for a zoning permit may reveal additional zoning requirements that are not met by the proposal.*

*This guide shall not be considered an order, requirement or decision as delineated in Section 8-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes.*

*The petitioner/applicant shall be responsible for any decision made in reliance on this form and it shall not create liability on the part of any officer of the Town of Ridgefield.*

