

The following members attended the public meeting:

Doreen Prouty-Chair
Aldo Mancini-Clerk
Vinny Ronghi-Alternate
Viktor Savonin
Stefanie Kesecker-Administrative Assistant

Members Absent:
Richard Maggi-Vice Chair

Chair Prouty open the meeting at 6:30pm and introduced the members of the Board.
Sitting on this case: Prouty-Chair, Mancini-Clerk, Savonin-Acting Vice Chair

A. Case#2042-262 Colemore Street-Dommenko-Appeal

Natalya and Andrey Dommenko were present for this agenda item. Ms. Dommenko stated that 4 years ago Eversource installed an 8 ft. fence after removing a natural vegetative barrier, and they received a notices from the Building Inspector that the fence is in violation of the zoning requirements. She stated Eversource has an easement and does lots of maintenance at the sight and this fence gives privacy and reduces noise. She stated there is a large metal structure on the edge of their property Eversource has to maintain and inspect often. Ms. Dommenko stated she is appealing the Building Inspector's decision, and asking the Board to allow the 8ft. fence to remain in place to retain her privacy as well as providing screening and noise reduction.

Mr. Savonin asked if Eversource received the homeowner's permission to remove the vegetation. Ms. Dommenko stated Eversource stated the vegetation was too tall and needed to come down, so the homeowner could take it down or Eversource would. Ms. Dommenko stated this ocured during the covid pandemic and an 8ft. fence was all that was available.

Mr. Savonin stated Eversource has a utility easement, which in most cases is a 15ft easement. He stated a maintenance easement is not for destruction of property. He stated maintaining and removing the hedges are two different things. Mr. Savonin asked if the homeowner granted Eversource permission. Ms. Dommenko stated yes. Mr. Savonin asked if Eversource paid for the fence. Ms. Dommenko stated yes and they have it professionally installed.

Ms. Prouty stated the Building Inspector received a complaint and had to act. Ms. Dommenko stated the complaint was not signed. Ms. Prouty stated when she spoke to the Building Inspector about this he stated the name is on the email address, although the complaint was not signed.

Mr. Savonin asked if a cease and desist letter was sent to Eversource. Ms. Prouty stated it went to the homeowner. Mr. Savonin questioned why the letter was not sent to the easement holder since they installed the fence. Ms. Prouty stated Eversource had sent a letter to the homeowner from the Variance for 265 Colemre Street, from his statements at the September ZBA meeting.stating they would agree to fix the issue, once the Board reached an agreement. Ms. Dommenko stated Eversource told her to go through the ZBA process first.

Mr. Ronghi stated even if it was an easement, it is still the homeowner who is responsible. He asked if the homeowner was given the option for shrubbery or the fence. Ms. Dommenko stated yes, but the trees would have to be maintained more often than a permanent fence. Mr. Ronghi stated if it was a natural barrier the trees can exceed 8ft., but Eversource would have to take them down and replant them periodically. Mr. Ronghi suggested reaching out to the Town Solicitor to require the easement holder remedy the issue. It was agreed to reach out to the Town Solicitor.

The Board discussed this at length as well as Town Councilor Russo who was in attendance who stated he would look into addressing a zoning ordinance making an 8ft. fence a legal right in certain situations, if this was a possibility.

Ms. Dommenko and the Board agreed to continue this hearing to March 9, 2026.

Ms. Prouty read into the minutes a memo from the Engineering Department dated, December 17, 2025 and Engineering had no issues with this appeal

Motion was made by Mr. Savonin and seconded by Mr. Mancini to continue the public hearing to March 9, 2026.

All in favor.

B. Approval of Minutes-December 8, 2025 & January 12, 2026

Motion was made by Mr. Ronghi and seconded by Mr. Savonin to approve the December 8, 2025 minutes as written.

All in favor.

Motion was made by Mr. Ronghi and seconded by Mr. Mancini to approve the January 12, 2026, amending the conditions to site the relevant chapters of the code.

All in favor.

C. Any other matter that may legally come before ZBA

Ms. Prouty stated she is still working on getting a training class to educate the Board on variances, but has been unable to get that scheduled at this time, but she will keep working on it, and keep the members posted.

Motion was made by Mr. Savonin and seconded by Mr. Mancini to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.