

SUPPORTING RATIONALE:

When considering a variance request, Regional District staff will *generally* assess the proposal against the following criteria:

- *is the proposed variance consistent with the general purpose and intent of the zone?*
- *is the proposed variance addressing a physical or legal constraint associated with the site (e.g., unusual parcel shape, topographical feature, statutory right-of-way, etc.)?*
- *is strict compliance with the zoning regulation unreasonable or un-necessary?*
- *will the proposed variance unduly impact the character of the streetscape or surrounding neighbourhood?*

A request to change a zoning regulation should only be considered as a last resort to a design challenge.

Please explain how the requested variance(s) meet the assessment criteria listed above:

Supporting Rationale

When my family and I moved onto the property last year, we brought along our small goats. I understood from the previous owner that livestock was permitted, as they had three horses, multiple chickens, ducks, rabbits and pigs (essentially a hobby farm) and I wasn't aware there was a specific numerical limit under the zoning bylaw.

Our intent has always been to be good neighbours and to care properly for our animals. Goats are much smaller and have far less impact than two full-sized horses or cows, which are already permitted under the bylaw. Allowing three goats instead of two does not change the overall character or intensity of use on the property and they do not cause a nuisance to any neighbours around us, in fact we have neighbours coming over with their small children to see the goats daily.

The two storage containers on site are being used temporarily to store household belongings from my father who unexpectedly passed away, which we are in the process of selling and clearing out his estate. It's been a difficult and busy time for our family, and the containers have provided a practical short-term solution which are airtight, leak proof and secured from thieves. They are set well back from the road and are not obstructing views from the house to the road way or neighbours houses. Their location is partially screened by trees along Forsythe Drive; additionally, have a fence that blocks the view from the side street. We have also taken the time to paint the containers a colour that matches our house to not make them an eyesore and have tucked them away to the side of the house so they are not in plain sight. Our adjacent neighbors have no issues with them and think they look great.

I intend to apply for a building permit for a garage in the near future, which would provide permanent enclosed storage and allow the containers to be removed. When we purchased the house one of the containers was already on the property so we were unaware that we were not permitted to have them on the land with limited storage this was a great option we thought. And now since my dad's passing, I am left with no other options for storage of his personal possessions that I hold dearly to my heart until I can afford to build a shop. We strive to be good neighbours and have a property that is maintained and well looked after; we have made the effort to acquaint ourselves to our surrounding neighbours and have no issues with any adjacent properties. We actually take pride in helping all our neighbours whenever they need a hand and they will all vouch for that if you do choose to ask any of them.

Assessment Criteria:

1. Consistency with the intent of the SH5 Zone:

Yes. The proposal maintains the rural-residential and small-scale agricultural intent of the SH5 zone. Three small goats are consistent with that use, and temporary containers for household storage do not conflict with it.

2. Physical or legal constraints:

No. There are no physical constraints. The request arises from personal circumstances and timing rather than site conditions.

3. Strict compliance:

Full compliance would be unnecessarily restrictive in this case, given the minimal difference between two and three small goats and the temporary nature of the storage containers.

4. Impact on neighbourhood character:

No undue impact is anticipated. The property remains rural in character, the goats are quiet and well cared for, and the containers are screened and temporary.

Overall, the requested variances are reasonable, temporary, and consistent with the purpose and intent of the zoning bylaw.