

Memorandum

To: Sunfish Lake Mayor Dan O'Leary and City Council Members

From: Lori Johnson, City Planner

Date: September 6, 2022

Re: Sunfish Lake – Planner's Report for the September 6, 2022, City Council Meeting
WSB Project No. 019575-000

Planning Commission Meeting: no meeting in August or September.

August Planning Updates

1. 300 Salem Church Road: This is a hold over item from the beginning of 2022. No news to report. *There are no updates on this unpaid escrow and I will need to know how to proceed with collection of this escrow. The outstanding amount is \$2,709.35*
2. Additional escrows: Additional escrows have now been collected for 100 Windy Hill and 15 Sunnyside Lane. There are still outstanding escrows for 1 Sunfish Lane.
3. 2184 Charlton Road: The property owners, Michael and Suzanne MacDonald, along with their architect, Pat Mackey, have submitted a variance application to allow for a third stall garage to be added to their existing garage. This lot and all buildings on the lot are nonconforming since they were constructed prior to current ordinance requirements. The property owners are trying to increase the livability of their nonconforming lot by adding a third stall to the attached garage. The ordinance does allow for this addition if the nonconforming structure is amended to increase the livability of the structure. At this time, this application remains incomplete as the applicant and property owners still need to submit all site development plans and surveys signed by a licensed engineer. This item is tentatively scheduled for the October Planning Commission meeting pending receipt of these plans.
4. 11 Salem Lane: A demo permit application has been received for this address. The demolition permit would apply to the entire structure. The application is still considered incomplete pending the receipt of additional information.

During the week of August 22-26, staff and some members of the Council and Planning Commission received complaints regarding construction activity at this address. Chief Sturgeon, the City Engineer and I investigated the activity occurring on site. It was determined that deconstruction was taking place on the interior of the existing home. The contractor was contacted and was asked to stop all work on site.

Staff reviewed all ordinances and codes and it was determined that a permit was not necessary for the interior work being done, which was removing items to be recycled rather than taken to a landfill. A major source of concern for the complainants was the nature of the company doing the recycling/removal work on the home. The company doing this work is Better Futures Minnesota, and the company employs formerly incarcerated individuals to do the work to teach necessary skills for reentering society.

Staff also determined that because the work does not require a permit, the City has no authority to require information on contractors. As a courtesy, the contractor provided a list of items to be removed from the site and recycled, which is good for the city and the environment. The City Engineer gave the contractor permission to continue with interior demolition only.

Citizens should be aware that the entire building will be razed when the demolition permit is issued for the home.

5. 15 Sunnyside Lane: Site work was approved and a building permit was issued for 15 Sunnyside Lane and work has likely begun on site. This approval did not include the stairs to the lake. The applicant was not ready to start that portion of the project. The stairs to the lake will require separate administrative review and a site inspection will need to occur prior to any work being started on the stairs.