

**BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2025
Adopted July 8, 2025**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Foose called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

ANNOUNCEMENT: Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A.10:4-6. On January 15, 2025, proper notice was sent to the Courier News and the Star-Ledger and filed with the Clerk at the Township of Bridgewater and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building. Please be aware of the Zoning Board of Adjustment policy for public hearings: No new applications will be heard after 10:15 pm and no new testimony will be taken after 10:30 pm. Hearing Assistance is available upon request. Accommodation will be made for individuals with a disability, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), provided the individual with the disability provides 48 hours advance notice to the Planning Department Secretary before the public meeting." However, if the individual should require special equipment or services, such as a CART transcriber, seven days advance notice, excluding weekends and holidays, may be necessary.

SALUTE TO FLAG: Chairman Foose lead the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Donald Sweeney	Absent	Jeff Foose	Present
Bruce Bongiorno	Present	John Gayeski	Present
James Weideli	Present	Claudio Vescio	Absent
Jeffrey Sicut	Present	Andrew Fresco	Present
Pushpavati Amin	Present	Chris Gabbett	Present
John Kulak	Present		

The Board Professionals in attendance were Board Attorney Rich Oller, Esq., and Board Planner Katherine Sarmad.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Foose opened the meeting to the public. With there being no members of the public wishing to speak, the Board closed this portion of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 28, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

On motion by Mr. Weideli, seconded by Mr. Gayeski, the regular meeting minutes were adopted with revisions based on the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Mr. Weideli, Ms. Amin, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Fresco, Mr. Gayeski, Mr. Sicat, and Chairman Foose
Nays:	None
Ineligible:	Mr. Kulak and Mr. Gabbett
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Vescio

RESOLUTIONS

None

LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

**Application #24-029-ZB; Rockland APV Bridgewater Energy LLC;
760 East Main Street; Block 338, Lot 9**

Summary: Proposal to subdivide 2 lots owned by Somerset County Improvement Authority to construct a new battery energy storage system facility on one of the lots.
Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan.

Mr. Richard Oller, Esq. announced that this application was not heard.

This application will be carried to June 24, 2025 without further notice.

**Application #24-032-ZB; Sharat Balagopalan;
756 Wingate Drive; Block 466, Lot 5**

Summary: Addition/Alterations to single family residence. Bulk Variances

Mr. Oller swore in the two witnesses, Mr. Salvatore Corvino and Mr. Sharat Balagopalan, and Ms. Katherine Sarmad, Township Planner.

Chairman Foose called the applicant to approach.

Mr. Balagopalan explained that he and his wife just purchased their home a year ago and wanted to make some modifications to suit their family. Mr. Balagopalan briefly went into some of the specifics.

Mr. Salvatore Corvino, licensed Architect and Planner, addressed the board. Mr. Corvino gave a descriptive summary of the existing undersized lot and explained the proposed project.

Mr. Corvino explained that the applicant is proposing to add a first and second floor addition to the back of the home along with a sunroom and outdoor deck. The variance is for the exceedance of lot coverage, which 18% being the maximum, and they are proposing 22.51%.

Mr. Weideli asked for further clarification of the required and proposed lot coverage. Chairman Foose asked about how the proposed addition of the home would fit into the neighborhood.

Mr. Corvino described the neighborhood and stated that the proposed addition would keep in tone with the other homes in the area.

Chairman Foose asked if they will agree to work with the Board Engineer regarding any stormwater drainage. Mr. Corvino agreed.

Mr. Bongiorno asked if the addition would match the existing home. Mr. Corvino responded, yes, it would.

Ms. Sarmad asked about the gravel and explained that the stone under the deck would count as lot coverage. Ms. Sarmad also stated they would only be about 38 square feet off if their lot was not undersized. Mr. Corvino and the applicant agreed to work with the planner and engineer. He then went on to thank the board for allowing him to be heard.

Mr. Oller went over the conditions of approval discussed.

Chairman Foose opened it up for public questioning or comment. With there being no public questioning or comment this portion of the hearing was closed.

On motion by Mr. Weideli, second by Mr. Bongiorno, the application was approved with conditions based on the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Mr. Weideli, Ms. Amin, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Fresco, Mr. Gayeski, Mr. Sicat, and Chairman Foose
Nays:	None
Ineligible:	Mr. Kulak and Mr. Gabbett
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Vescio

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

The Board had no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at approximately 7:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Maria DeSimone
Land Use Office Specialist