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Variance Rational
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12 February 2024

Committee of Adjustment
Received | Reçu le
2024-02-14
City of Ottawa | Ville d'Ottawa
Comité de dérogation

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1.0 INTRODUCTION and PROJECT OVERVIEW:

This report has been prepared in support of the application for 2 variances to permit the construction of an eight-unit low rise apartment building by demolishing an existing detached dwelling unit. The unit mix includes 4 - 2 bedrm, and 4 - 3 bedrm units. Total 8 units. The property is a through lot located at between Monfort Street (front yard) and Ethel Street in Vanier. The variance requested is for lot width.

2.0 SITE OVERVIEW & COMMUNITY CONTEXT:

The property is currently occupied by a two-storey dwelling constructed in the 50's. The property is in the City of Ottawa. It has a street frontage width of 9.42m (east/west) and an irregular depth of 30.18m (north/south). It has a lot area of 358.9 sqm. The zoning is R4UA.

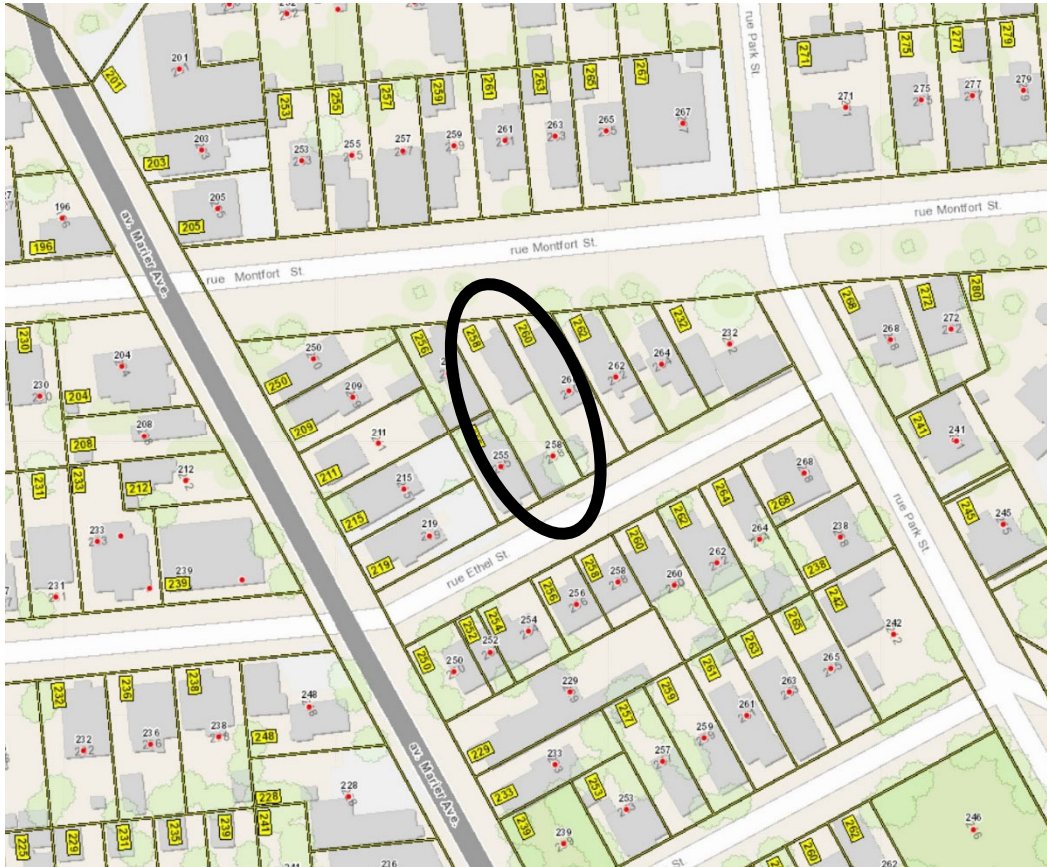
It is located in the Schedule B2 Inner Urban Transect Monfort. The site is in a designated neighbourhood but is just east of the evolving neighbourhood designation.



Surrounding Land Uses:

The property is bounded by primarily by detached dwellings on all sides.

Neighbourhood



1) Subject Property Monfort



2) The Monfort Streetscape looking to the West



3) The Monfort Streetscape looking to the East



4) Subject Property Ethel



5) The Ethel Streetscape looking to the East

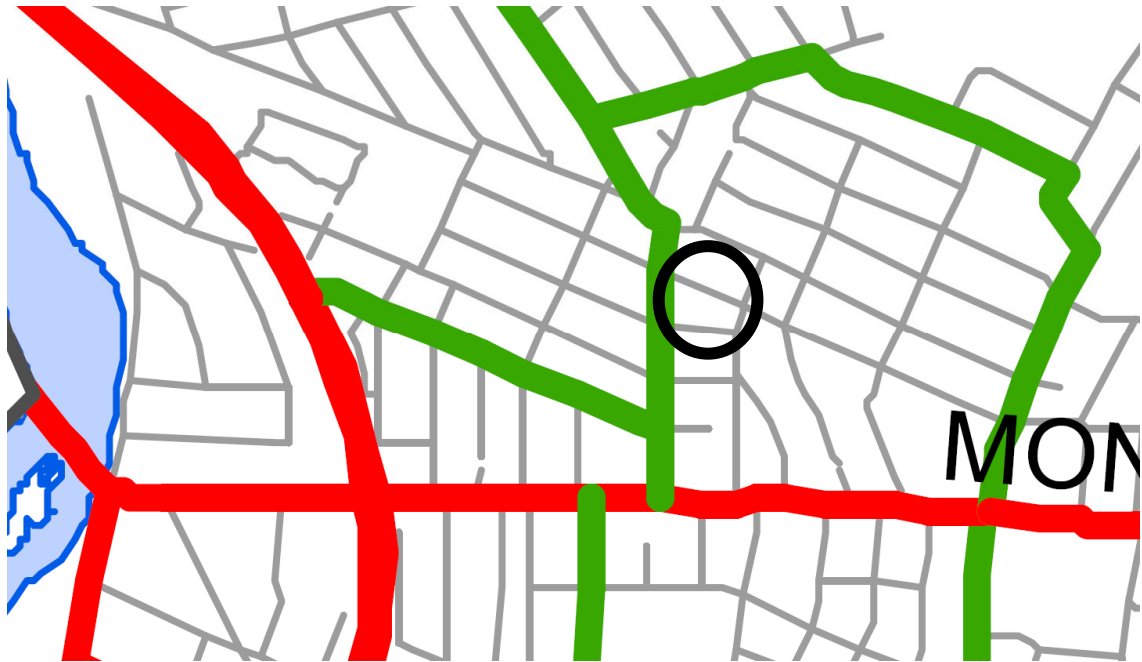


6) The Ethel Streetscape looking to the West



Road Network:

Monfort is classified as a local road. The closest intersection is Marier Ave classified as a Collector on Schedule C4 - Urban Road Network



Bicycle Network:

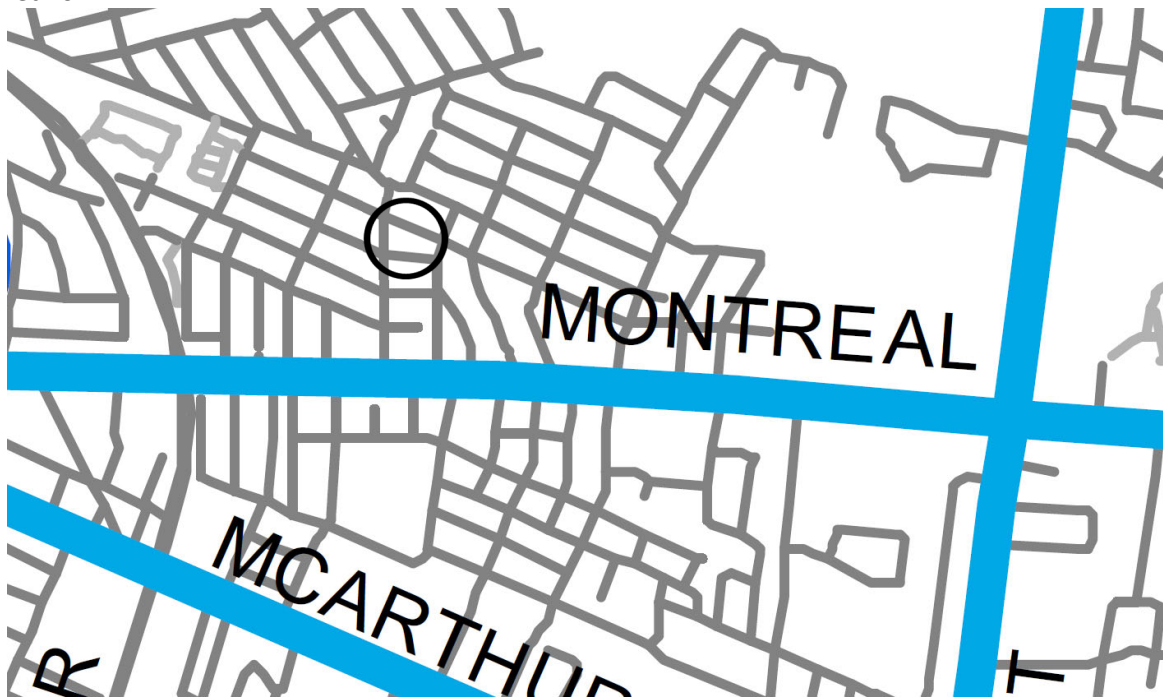
The new active transportation mapping Schedule C3 - Active Transportation Network, major pathways identifies the major pathway that the site is close to. Montreal road has been reconstructed with a bike pathway

Active Transportation Plan



Transit Services:

The site is within walking of Montreal Road that is a transit priority road in Schedule C2 Ultimate Transit Network



Community Services:

The site is located within easy walking distance to numerous schools, grocery stores and services along Montreal Road and Beechwood. It has many of the characteristics of a complete 15 min walking neighbourhood,

3.0 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL AND VARIANCES

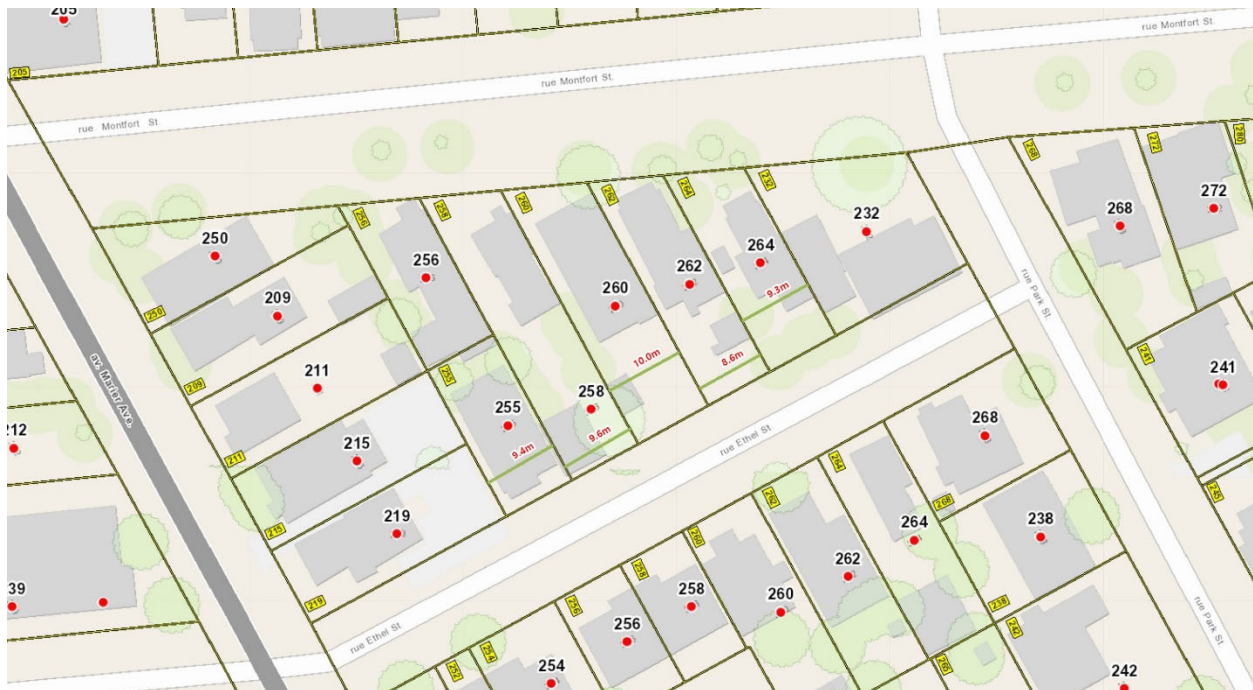
The proposed variance will to permit the construction of an eight-unit low rise apartment building by demolishing an existing detached dwelling unit. The unit mix includes 4 - 2 bedrm, and 4 – 3 bedrm units. Total 8 units. The property is a through lot located at between Monfort Street (front yard) and Ethel Street in Vanier. The variance requested is for lot width.

The requested variances are as follows:

- 1) To permit a lot width of 9.42m whereas the bylaw requires 12m
- 2) To permit a lot area of 358.9 sqm whereas the bylaw requires 360 sqm

The variance 1 varies as the lot fronts on both Monfort Street and Ethel Street. If the lot were not a through lot the variance requested would be 10.26m whereas the bylaw requires 12.0m. The proposed lot width is similar to neighbouring properties (9 to 10m).

Variance 2) is a very small variance of 1.1sqm less than the required 360 sqm.



Zoning Table

Address: 258 Monfort				
Zoning , R4UA: AREA 'X', SCHEDULE 1A: AREA 'A', SCHEDULE 342				
Low Rise Apartment Building, 8 Units, Building Gross Floor Area 710 sqm				
Zoning Mechanism	Requirement	Proposed	Comments	
Minimum Lot Frontage	12.0 metres	10.26, 9.42m	Noncompliant Table 162A IV	
Minimum Lot Area	360.0 m ²	358.9 m ²	Noncompliant Table 162A V	
Minimum Front Yard Setback	1.78, max 4.5	1.78	comply, Sec. 123 (1)(b)	
Minimum Rear Yard Setback, through lot	4.5 max	4.5m	comply, Sec. 135 (a)	
Minimum Interior Side Yard Setback	1.5 metres	1.52, 1.54m	comply, TABLE 162A – R4 SUBZONE PROVISIONS (X)	
Minimum Exterior Side Yard Setback	NA	NA		
Maximum Building Height	11.0 metres	11.00	comply, TABLE 162A – R4 SUBZONE PROVISIONS (X)	
Amenity Area (6sqm pu)	48sqm	23 (decks) 25 sqm at grade	comply Table 137 (3)	
Front Aggregate Landscaping 20%	6.27 sqm	15.87 sqm	Comply, Table 161	
Maximum Lot Coverage	NA			
First Floor Habitable Space				
Rear Landscaped	NA			
Front facing windows in front facade	25%,	29.1	Sect 161(g)	
Street façade recessed 0.6m or porch/decks	20%,	32.1	Sect 161(h)	
Transportation				
Parking	Dwelling Units parking	0	0	Comply 101(3)(a)
	Visitor parking	0	0	
Bicycles	0.5 per dwelling unit	4	4	Comply Table 111A(b)
Private Approach (By-law No. 2003-447)	width	Min 2.6	NA	
	grade	2% within 6m of road edge	NA	
Waste Collection				

Address: 258 Monfort Zoning , R4UA: AREA 'X', SCHEDULE 1A: AREA 'A', SCHEDULE 342				
Low Rise Apartment Building, 8 Units, Building Gross Floor Area 710 sqm				
Zoning Mechanism		Requirement	Proposed	Comments
Solid Waste Management (By-law No. 2012-370)	Path	1.2 metres		Comply adjacent to sidewalk
	Garbage Room Size Based on unit count			Unser 6 units

4.0 POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

Provincial Policy Statement (2020)

The Provincial Policy Statement is issued under the authority of section 3 of the Planning Act and came into effect on May 1, 2020. In respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter, section 3 of the Planning Act requires that decisions affecting planning matters “shall be consistent with” policy statements issued under the Act.

Under the PPS, settlement areas are intended to be the primary focus of growth in the province.

Policy 1.1.1. Healthy, liveable and safe communities are sustained by:

a) promoting efficient development and land use patterns which sustain the financial well-being of the Province and municipalities over the long term;

b) accommodating an appropriate affordable and market-based range and mix of residential types (including single-detached, additional residential units, multi-unit housing, affordable housing and housing for older persons), employment (including industrial and commercial), institutional (including places of worship, cemeteries and long-term care homes), recreation, park and open space, and other uses to meet long-term needs;

c) avoiding development and land use patterns which may cause environmental or public health and safety concerns;

d) avoiding development and land use patterns that would prevent the efficient expansion of settlement areas in those areas which are adjacent or close to settlement areas;

e) promoting the integration of land use planning, growth management, transit-supportive development, intensification and infrastructure planning to achieve cost-effective development patterns, optimization of transit investments, and standards to minimize land consumption and servicing costs;

f) improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and older persons by addressing land use barriers which restrict their full participation in society;

g) ensuring that necessary infrastructure and public service facilities are or will be available to meet current and projected needs;

h) promoting development and land use patterns that conserve biodiversity;

and

i) preparing for the regional and local impacts of a changing climate.

The subject lands are situated within the urban boundary of the City of Ottawa and constitute a settlement area. Accordingly, the lands are a logical and preferred location for new development. Within settlement areas, the PPS encourages land use patterns that make efficient use of land, effective use of infrastructure and public services, support active modes of transportation and are transit-supportive (Policy 1.1.1).

City of Ottawa Official Plan

The Ottawa Official Plan has been reviewed. The site is designated General Urban Area on Schedule B of the City of Ottawa Official Plan. Lands within this designation are meant to provide a full range and choice of housing options in combination with conveniently located employment, retail, service, entertainment and institutional uses. The project site does not fall within any of Schedule C7-A - Design Priority Areas – Urban. It is classified as “Neighbourhood” under Schedule B2 Inner Urban Transect.

The Proposal supports 15 min neighbourhood through the following:

- a) No parking will be little traffic impact.
- b) Amenity space is provided in the rear yard.
- c) Lighting will be for safety purposes and will respect the dark skies initiative.
- d) The building will not generate additional noise.
- e) The building height complies with the zoning bylaw
- f) The additional people living in the neighbourhood will increase the number of commercial services that might chose to locate in the area as well as better utilize transit services.

OP Section 3. Growth Management Framework

OP 3.2 Support Intensification

Table 3b

“Housing density

Inner Urban Transect, 60 to 80,”

This project helps move the inner urban transact closer to 60 to 80 units per hectare with a net density of 190 units per hectare.

OP Section 4. City-Wide Policies

OP 4.2 Housing

“4.2.1 Enable greater flexibility and an adequate supply and diversity of housing options throughout the city

2) The City shall support the production of a missing middle housing range of mid-density, low-rise multi-unit housing, in order to support the evolution of healthy walkable 15-minuteneighbourhoods by:

- a) Allowing housing forms which are denser, small-scale, of generally three or more units per lot in appropriate locations, with lot configurations that depart from the traditional lot division and put the emphasis on the built form and the public realm, as-of-right within the Zoning By-law;
- b) Allowing housing forms of eight or more units in appropriate locations as-of-right within the Zoning By-law;”.

OP Section 5. Transects

OP 5.1.5 Provide direction to the Neighbourhoods located within the Inner City Transect

“5.2.4 Provide direction to the Neighbourhoods located within the Inner Urban Transect

1) Neighbourhoods located in the Downtown Core shall accommodate residential growth to meet the Growth Management Framework as outlined in Subsection 3.2, Table 3b. The Zoning By-law shall implement the density thresholds in a manner which adheres to the following:

a) Allows and supports a wide variety of housing types with a focus on missing-middle housing, which may include new housing types that are currently not contemplated in this Plan;

c) Provides for a Low-rise built form, by requiring in Zoning a minimum built height of 2 storeys, generally permitting 3 storeys, and where appropriate, will allow a built height of up to 4 storeys to permit higher-density Low-rise residential development;

d) Building on Table 6, provides an emphasis on regulating the maximum built form envelope that frames the public right of way; and

e) In appropriate locations, to support the production of missing middle housing, prohibit lower-density typologies.

OP Section 6. Urban Designations:

The site is designated a Neighbourhood under 6.3 of the OP

“6.3.1 Define neighbourhoods and set the stage for their function and change over the life of this Plan.

2) Permitted building heights in Neighbourhoods shall be Low-rise...”

And

“4) The Zoning By-law and approvals under the Planning Act shall allow a range of residential and non-residential built forms within the Neighbourhood designation, including:

a) Generally, a full range of Low-rise housing options sufficient to meet or exceed the goals of Table 2 and Table 3b;

b) Housing options with the predominant new building form being missing middle housing, which meet the intent of Subsection 6.3.2, Policy 1);”

The proposed building responds to these requirements by proposing a three storey stacked residential dwelling.

Urban Design Guidelines for Low-rise Residential Buildings

The proposal maintains the current lot pattern, some characteristics of the buildings in the neighbourhood with a modern architectural style.

City of Ottawa Comprehensive Zoning By-law 2008-250:

Purpose of the Zone

The property is currently R4UA

Purpose of the Zone

The purpose of the R4 - Residential Fourth Density Zone is to:

1. allow a wide mix of residential building forms ranging from detached to low rise apartment dwellings, in some cases limited to four units, and in no case more than four storeys, in areas designated as General Urban Area in the Official Plan;
2. allow a number of other residential uses to provide additional housing choices within the fourth density residential areas;
3. permit ancillary uses to the principal residential use to allow residents to work at home;
4. regulate development in a manner that is compatible with existing land use patterns so that the mixed building form, residential character of a neighbourhood is maintained or enhanced: and
5. permit different development standards, identified in the Z subzone, primarily for areas designated as Developing Communities, which promote efficient land use and compact form while showcasing newer design approaches.

5.0 CONCLUSION:

The proposed development has been designed to meet the current planning framework. It is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement and conforms to the City of Ottawa Official Plan.

The proposed variance should be considered minor for the following reasons:

1. It are minor and desirable.
 - a. The lot width is minor as it similar to the street pattern of lots, the scale of the building, setbacks and lot area all comply with the zoning bylaw
 - b. The lot area is only 1.1sqm less than the required lot area
2. The general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law is maintained
 - a. the intent of the bylaw is to permit low rise apartment buildings.
 - b. The intent of the bylaw that the new infill properties respect the existing character of the neighbourhood.
3. The general intent and purpose of the Official Plan is maintained;
 - a. The official plan supports this kind of gentle intensification of land uses compatible with the current urban fabric.
4. The Ontario Planning Act supports intensification in residential urban areas