

PROJECT NARRATIVE FOR:

March 28, 2019



BAPS Temple Additions, 16 Computer Drive East, Colonie, NY 12205

The BAPS Hindu Temple is currently a 1-story, 12,865 sf religious building on a 1.02 ac, 44,460 sf lot in the COR zoning district. The building currently meets all the required setbacks and site statistics, including the 35% greenspace.

With our proposed additions, we will still meet all these requirements except the greenspace. Greenspace will decrease from 35.8% to a proposed 28.8%, a reduction of 7%. We are requesting a waiver for this reduction. All site statistics are listed on the Site Plan.

Our proposal is to add a rear addition, a multi-purpose, 1-story, single-room, metal building, that will be 3,120 sf and will replace that same amount of greenspace. We will also add an 864 sf, 1-story, storeroom, metal building, on the front. This front addition will replace currently paved space that was a former loading dock and truck driveway.

These new additions will not change the use of the building, the number of occupants, the required parking, or the hours of operation. Most services are on the weekends and other activities are nights and weekends. We have an agreement to use a neighbors parking lot if these activities require additional parking on these off-hours.

STATEMENT FROM THE CONGREGATION:

Over the last 12 years BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir has served as a place of worship for many families in the greater Albany area. Our organization has participated in a number of humanitarian activities such as walk-a-thons, health awareness activities and events to help children learn the importance of giving back to the community. After a decade of service, we are looking for ways to improve our facility and create a better environment for our volunteers and visitors. One of the challenges we face is related to storage within our facility. Currently, we store supplies throughout the facility in random locations and do not have dedicated rooms to organize and store our supplies. This creates operational challenges and requires a significant amount of coordination between our various activities such as worship services, yoga, meditation, discussions, etc. As such we would like to create additional areas of storage to organize and streamline our operations.

Scheduling and preparation of our activities is key to our success, but currently we run into issues since we are limited to only a few, over-utilized areas of the building. We would like to add a multi-purpose activity room to help our volunteers organize, prepare and coordinate our activities. Our goal is to create a more efficient, safer and useful environment for our members. The changes above will help allow our organization to operate more efficiently and in a cost-effective way.

Our proposal will not change or impact the hours of operation, number of occupants, parking requirements, etc. This is crucial for our continued success and will help our organization participate in the community for years to come.

We appreciate your time and consideration in this regard. Thank you.

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