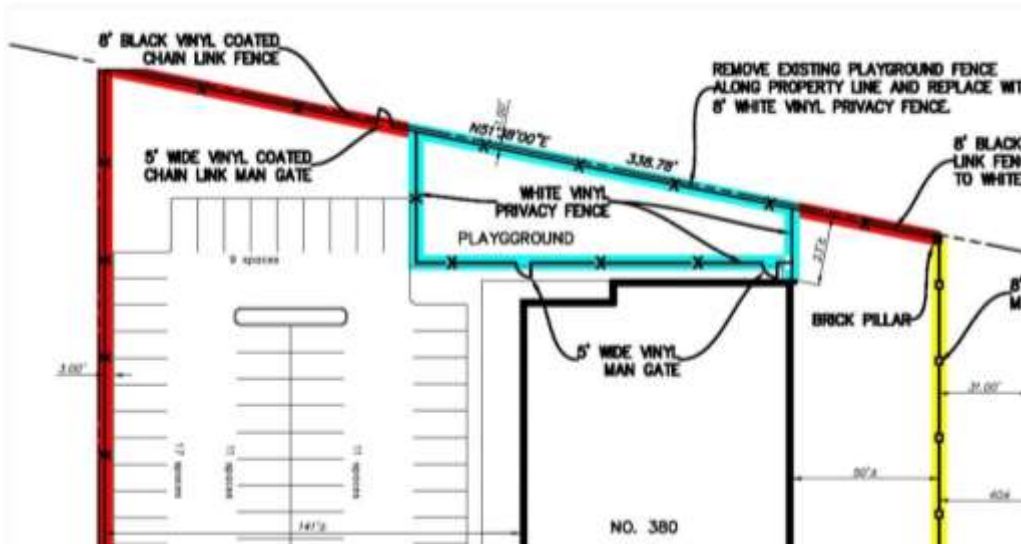


Questions raised by BZA members at meeting of 5/26.

- 1. What is the reason for fence with 100% opacity. Won't this create a dangerous condition?**

The only place the fence with 100% opacity will be used is around the playground as shown below:



This is appropriate so that it will deter individuals observing children at play in the playground area. When children are using the playground, a staff member will be in attendance.

- 2. How as the 8 foot height determined? The BZA must grant the minimum variance required.**

We consulted the Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) on Security Fences and Gates.

UFC 4-900-03
1 October 2012

UNIFIED FACILITIES CRITERIA (UFC)

SECURITY FENCES AND GATES



APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE; DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED

Relevant Sections:

2-8 FENCE FABRIC HEIGHT

*Unless otherwise directed all security and perimeter fencing must have a minimum fence fabric height of 7 feet (2.13m), excluding the top guard. Fence height including outriggers must be a minimum of **8 feet** (2.44m). Modifications to existing fences are not required to meet this new UFC. (Emphasis added)*

Consult with current Service policies on specific requirements regarding fence height and assets that may require a higher level of protection.

2-9 TOP GUARDS

When required, install outriggers (support arms) at 45-degree angles in a single arm (towards the threat side) or "Y"/"V" configuration, constructed of a single or double outrigger consisting of 18-inch (457 mm) arm(s), each having three strands of barbed wire at regular intervals along the top of the fence.

The outriggers must provide a minimum of an additional 12 inches (305 mm) to the fence height. The top guard fencing adjoining gates may range from a vertical height of 18 inches (457 mm) to the normal 45 degree outward protection, but for a limited distance along the fence line to adequately open the gates. Outriggers must be permanently affixed to the fence posts with screws or by spot welding. Screws used to affix outriggers to posts must be made tamper-proof either by design, peening, or welding.

The security fence details in this guidance provide fences higher than 8 feet total height for special uses. Heights less than 8 feet in height would not provide "security fencing".

3. Can you provide information on other fences within NYS with similar height fences?

I misspoke at this meeting when I offered to provide information about other installations. Officials of Congregation Beth Abraham Jacob informed me that they did not want to point out any security efforts at other institutions out of concern for attracting attention from potential violent individuals.

4. Can you provide information on discussion with NYS or Federal agencies about incidences or concerns of the congregation?

I am informed officials of Congregation Beth Abraham Jacob that there have been discussions with NYS Police and the FBI about particular threats but they have been directed to work through the City of Albany Police Department, which is what the congregation has done.

5. Can you provide information on Best Management Practices provided by agencies which you relied upon?

There are various documents and papers (not for distribution to the public) from the local Jewish Federation and from national religious organizations, which speak about operations. Many of the recommendations have been instituted. They include:

Installation of new doors and access control system.
Providing a robust video camera system
Improved exterior lighting
Providing private armed security at every service and large event.

None of these documents address required fence height to provide a secure area.

6. Have hedges been considered?

Hedges have been considered. Evergreen hedges such as Arborvitae can make a dense shrub but wouldn't deter access by a strong individual. Thorned deciduous shrubs like Barberry and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) were considered. Barberry is an invasive species. Blackthorn could be breached by an individual properly dressed with gloves and a thick jacket.

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