

June 4, 2020

City of Nanaimo  
Board of Variance

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

Re: 6462 Thornwood Place, Nanaimo, British Columbia

---

We write to you following our application for a permit to build a deck for our family home.

We have four children, twin girls aged 7, a 12-year old daughter and a 15-year old son. We bought this home 8 years ago anticipating living here for many years. What we liked about the home was being on a cul-de-sac and having a large backyard. Being able to spend a great deal of time outside, particularly in the backyard with the children, is very important to us because it encourages time away from screens which has become their preferred way to pass the time. Since purchasing the home in 2012, we have always dreamed of expanding the deck in order to create a usable outdoor living space for our family. Although we very much appreciate and enjoy backing onto greenspace, the trees behind us have continued to grow and shade the yard more and more every year. We have considered moving to another home however that is not only financially infeasible for us, it would also create significant upheaval for our children at a time when stability is crucial for them. After careful consideration, we made the decision to stay in our home and decided to develop a more usable outdoor living space.

Recently, the need to have a practical outdoor space has intensified with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Naturally, our kids are required to spend even more time in front of computer screens as it is the primary way for them to remain engaged in their school work. We vastly prefer our children spending their spare time outside in the yard but the damp, shady grass in the backyard is not a viable alternative for them as a play area. Furthermore, our home is the largest in our immediate family. My sister and her family as well as my folks live walking distance from us and come to our home on a weekly basis for dinners and socializing. In order for us to continue to do this, we need to have a larger, useable outdoor space to adequately socially distance ourselves from each other. The smaller deck that we are currently allowed to build would not allow sufficient space between us and would greatly hinder our ability to entertain our family and friends.

We know everybody is experiencing added complexity and challenges in their lives right now. We humbly ask to be able to avoid the challenge and hardship of moving our family in the event that we cannot come up with a truly usable outdoor family space. It is a given that in the damper months, we cannot be out in the yard as often and we can accept that. But we have been promising our children for some time that there will soon be a new deck and they will be able to spend much more time outdoors because of it. We have been so looking forward to having our family and close friends over and this deck would allow us to do so safely and comfortably. We respectfully request that you allow our contractor, Pheasant Hill Homes, to extend our deck as we have asked.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sheryl Staite, Owner  


RECEIVED  
BOV738  
2020-JUN-04  
Current Planning