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SEP 10 2024

TOWN OF GRAND VALLEY

Per \_\_\_\_\_

File Number: Z05-2024

Address: 25 McIntyre Lane, Grand Valley, ON L9W6V1

To the Town of Grand Valley,

We have grown to love Grand Valley as our home. We love the sense of community and close knit friendships that we have created within this town. It was never our intention to bypass or circumvent any zoning by laws when trying to create our backyard oasis. Since we purchased the property in 2020, we both agreed that this would be our "forever home" and that we would put our hearts and funds into creating our perfect home and backyard. With winters being so long, we try to make the most of the good weather and spend countless hours outside in our backyard. It really is our happy place. Nothing was ever built or created out of malice. Our biggest mistake was not doing our due diligence in researching by laws, zoning and permits.

The process started in 2020 with the building of our shed. Coming from Brampton, we were under the impression that it needed to be 2 feet away from all fences. The following year, in 2021, we installed a concrete patio along with footings for a future fireplace and gazebo. At this stage, all efforts were made to ensure that no rain water was directed to any of our direct neighbours by installing weeping tile that follows the original grade. The weeping tile is set on a bed of  $\frac{3}{4}$  clear gravel with filter cloth (as outlined in our drawing). Trench drains were also installed in front of the shed and fireplace areas to control rain water run-off.

In 2022, construction of the fireplace began by the erection of block walls, lentils and stone work in accordance to building code (fireplace has since been approved by the Grand Valley Fire Chief with no concerns for safety as well as from the Dufferin County building inspector).

All of the construction to date has been completed by us with the help of friends and family.

Throughout the construction, we made it a point to speak to all of our direct neighbours to ensure that if at any point, the noise, the structures or the rain water were an issue to them or their property to please let us know and we would remedy the situation as soon as possible. It has been important to us to keep open communication with our neighbours as we value the friendships.

We are asking town council to forgive our ignorance and please take into consideration the time, work and financial savings that have been put toward our backyard. We take great pride in the workmanship and have already created so many great memories back there with our family, friends and neighbours.

We look forward to hearing back from you on the outcome.

Sincerest regards,

Paulo and Amanda Farias

25 McIntyre Lane, GV