

September 24, 2018 City Council

Application No. D06-2018-022

Mayor and Council c/o Office of the City Clerk

26 Francis Street

P.O. Box 9000

Lindsay, On K9V 5R8

Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

The only complaint we know of previous to the Public Meeting came in September 2017, almost 1 year after the platform was completed. I had an engineer visit the site within 7 days of the complaint and his report was sent to the CKL 10 days later, at which time I applied for a building permit.

With regard to the current situation, it is important that Scott and I attempt to address some of the concerns raised in correspondence from the Blair's, and a few others..

Privacy Issue – We hope you have had a chance to review the photographs. When foliage is on the trees there is no unobstructed view into windows or doorways of any adjacent property, we can see a small portion of the rear of the Blair yard at the top of a rather steep grade. Even without foliage, the Blair property has many coniferous trees that provide cover year round. We are able to see much more of their yard from our back porch. Our abutting neighbour to the north has no concern with the platform and has provided a letter to that effect. We have a farmer's field to the east, and to the west we can see the treed property opposite, but again we have a much better view of their yard from our

covered second story porch. The properties on each side of the property directly opposite, west, have both written letters of support. If the deck were to be at the permitted height of 5 m./16 feet, this would be below the tree canopy and enable us to have an unobstructed view of the Blair's abutting backyard to the south. In the worst case scenario the application is denied and we have to remove the observation deck, we would want to reclaim the materials and rebuild to conform within the parameters of the Mariposa bylaw. At a rebuilt height, the privacy issue would still remain, and in fact, I believe be much worse.

Use and interference with Osprey –The primary purpose is to observe the ospreys (located on a separate pole, approximately 40 ft. east of the platform), however, as stated in our application, it is not used from mid-May to mid-July, so as to not disturb the ospreys while nesting. The Ospreys have nested without fail every year for the past four years and I have watched and photographed 8 young osprey successfully leave the nest. I would respectfully suggest that with this success rate, the Ospreys are quite happy. Also, as stated in my accompanying letter with the application, we also use it for watching sunsets during August and September and as stated on our application it is rarely used during the winter months.

Compliance with the Building Code – I assume this will be decided by Building Division staff, if our application is approved.

Quality of M.B. Finney's Report – I again assume this will be decided by Building Division staff, if our application is approved.

With regard to Scott and the build – Scott has been a ticketed lineman for 38 years. Planting and setting hydro poles is an integral part of his

job, and the observation deck was modeled after transformer stand with load bearing, side shear and structural integrity all taken into account. Again, something Scott is very familiar with. It is, if anything, over-built for its purpose, but again this will be decided by Building Division Staff, if our application moves forward.

Precedence - Due to the technical difficulty & high cost of building this structure, I don't think you'll see them appearing throughout the CKL.

Signatories to the petition and letters of support – I believe it should be apparent from the addresses listed on the petition that all signatories live within 500 m. of our property. All but 6 of these people confirmed they received the City's Notice of Public Meeting. These 6 people weren't sure if they received that Notice and the petition identified them accordingly. In addition, there are six letters of support, 3 of which are from neighbours within 200 feet.

In conclusion – I would like to apologize for building the elevated observation deck on our property without the necessary permit, and for having little knowledge of the correct process nor an understanding of as Zoning By-Laws and Minor Variances. Scott and I would be happy to address any conditions imposed by council and/or building staff to satisfy any privacy issues.

I thank you for your time.

Suzanne Alden