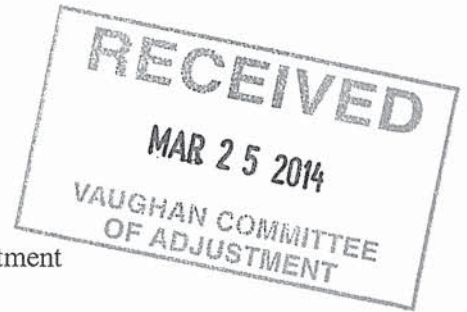


March 25, 2014



Attention: Mr. Todd Coles, Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment

Dear Mr. Coles,

The purpose of this letter is to express my concerns with the “Notice of Application: Minor Variance”, file number A059/14, which was applied for by Madan Mohan and Rekha Babbar (hereafter referred to as “the applicants”) for the address of 197 Morning Star Drive in Woodbridge.

I speak not only for myself, but for many of the other residents in the area, when I say that we are unhappy with what has been done to the front area of the above mentioned address. Though other residents have extended their driveways it has been done to a lesser extent and in a much more tasteful way. The applicants made three separate extensions to the width and length of their driveway over several weeks. Several months ago, once the third extension was underway, a neighbour brought this issue to the attention of the City.

I understand that once the applicants were contacted by the City they claimed that the extension was to make the home wheel chair accessible. I find this claim without merit due to the fact that there are only stairs from the driveway to the front door. There has never been a ramp at the front of the home. This claim is discredited further by the fact that on a regular basis there are four cars parked across the driveway, leaving no possible space for a wheel chair to pass through (see pictures attached).

I imagine this claim was dismissed as now the applicants are asking for a “minor variance”. I would not say this is a “*minor* variance” as the applicants have added upwards of 4 meters to the *maximum* driveway width and have reduced the minimum landscaped area by 22%!

Several neighbours have expressed a concern that this type of “sloppy” and “tasteless” extension is an eyesore and could very well reduce the property value of the surrounding homes and therefore lower the revenue for the City as the property taxes collected will be lower as the home values decrease.

I have attached a picture of the above mentioned address and would like to draw your attention to the large evergreen tree to the left of the driveway – several of the bottom branches on the right side of the tree have been “hacked” to permit a car to park underneath. From the picture you can see that the extension to the right of the driveway is also used for vehicle parking, not a “walkway” as the applicants have tried to assert.

The importance of pride of ownership is evident throughout this neighborhood and many of the neighbours feel that the current bylaws, in terms of maximum driveway width and minimum landscape area, are appropriate and serve several purposes, one of those being maintaining the aesthetic appeal of our neighborhoods and City.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse; I imagine the applicants did not apply for the appropriate permits; if they had, I highly doubt the work would have been approved. The applicants should not be rewarded for side skirting the law. I implore you to uphold and enforce the current by-law requirements.

Though this term is overused, I suggest that permitting this variance will create a slippery slope and very likely lead to other residents doing similar projects. With this in mind, I would say if your intention is to change the by-law requirements then allow the applicants their variance. However, if you intend to uphold the current by-law requirements, I believe the only appropriate action is to have the applicants remove what they have done in order to be within compliance of the by-law requirements.

I realize not coming forward personally could potentially weaken my argument, however, I hope this is not the case. Please understand the reasoning behind my decision to remain anonymous; I feel that there could be retribution and I do not wish to create an awkward situation as I pass by 197 Morning Star Drive several times a day and live in close proximity to that address.

Signed,

A concerned neighbour who wishes to remain anonymous.