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Town of Durham

JUN 11 2018

Planning, Assessing
and Zoning

10 June 18

Chris Sterndale, Chair
Zoning Board of Adjustment
Town of Durham
Durham, NH 03824

Re: 9 Foss Farm Road

Dear Mr. Sterndale and ZBA Members:

In December, 2016, the ZBA granted a two-year extension to a previously approved variance for 9 Foss Farm Road, Tax Map 6, Lot 2-4 to construct a two-car garage with a one-bedroom dwelling unit and septic system. In January, 2017, my wife, Jill, and I purchased the property with the intention of following through on the project, the presumption being that we would begin construction by September, 2018. We did begin preliminary site design following the purchase. I was confident that we would be able to produce construction drawings by winter 2018, leaving enough time for town review, permitting at town and state levels and selecting a contractor. All this in order to hit the September, 2018 deadline.

Funny how life can get in the way. Beginning in November of last year, everything except two current client commitments and the Police Department renovation and addition was put on hold because of my diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. That hiatus of projects included Foss Farm. My architecturally focused time has been cut by 80%. Without going into details, it has been rough to maintain a reliable and productive work schedule. My treatments moved to Boston in mid-April of this year for radiation five days/week for six weeks followed by a four-week recovery period. If all goes according to schedule, I'll have surgery to remove the tumor on 2 July. Presuming all goes well, I'll have a several weeks recovery period following the surgery.

Consequently, there is no way we will be able to meet the September deadline to begin construction. I would like to request an extension from the ZBA that would allow Jill and me to re-focus on the Foss Farm project in the fall of 2018 with an anticipated construction start no later than spring of 2020. Not to be morbid but the extended time to 2020 makes sense if Jill is undertaking the actual construction phase of the project without me. Given the circumstances and her unfamiliarity with construction, she would be recruiting knowledgeable friends and colleagues to assist her which might require more time to execute.

We hope this seems reasonable. If all goes as we hope, this would be a perfect project to undertake after my recovery. Thank you for wading through this and assessing the reasonableness of this request.

Sincerely,

Bill
Schoonmaker Architects
10 Mathes Terrace
Durham, NH 03824