

August 28, 2021

Paul Watkins  
69 South Prospect St.  
Verona, NJ 07044

RE: Case # 2021-19  
69 South Prospect Street (Block 1805, Lot 1)  
Verona, NJ  
Zone: R-60 (Medium Density Single Family)

To Whom It May Concern:

In response to the Memo from the Plan Review Committee of the Verona Environmental Commission sent to the BOA secretary, Mrs. Neale regarding Case # 2021-19, an application for a fence variance, two corrections need to be acknowledged.

First, in section (1) of the memo it states that "we understand that the Applicant proposes to remove the **entire arborvitae hedge** in lieu of fencing." This statement is both incorrect and misleading. Since purchasing the property in 2019, 17 plus Green Giant evergreens have been planted and will remain as hedges near the Pease Avenue "frontage." The shrubs to be removed are in a 60 foot portion along the backyard. They are overgrown, unkempt, and have been destroyed by grazing deer for years prior to our ownership of the property.

Second, in section (2) of the memo the town ordinance 493.26 A is referenced. The town ordinance states "For each coniferous tree to be removed, that is: (1) between 10 feet and under 25 feet in height, replacement shall be by a single replacement tree." It is important to note, that the majority of the shrubs to be removed are between 6 and 8 feet high. There are only three shrubs that are over 10 feet tall, and the bottom of all three of them has been ravaged by deer. As stated above, we have already planted 20 plus Green Giants (17 being near said location). The Green Giants are approximately 12 to 15 feet high a piece, and 10 plus other substantial specimens have been planted on our property since purchase in 2019. In total, we have recently planted 30 plus "trees."

The purpose of our fence variance application is to provide our three children with a safe environment to play in their backyard. Something many other corner properties throughout town already enjoy.

Five examples of corner properties in the Township of Verona which currently have newer six-foot high vinyl privacy fences installed are as follows:

- Corner of Elmwood Road and Beech Street
- Corner of Franklin Street and Brookside Terrace
- Corner of Fairview Avenue and Personette Avenue
- Corner of Cumberland Avenue and Newman Avenue
- Corner of Grove Avenue and Personette Avenue

We have provided photos of said properties for your review. And look forward to our meeting on September 9, 2021.

Sincerely,

Paul and Melissa Watkins





