

Hello Fellow Amherstburg Citizens,

I am writing this letter to provide some additional information, in relation to the Proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment for 6871 6th Concession Rd N. This farm involved in the amendment belongs to my father and is where I grew up. To this day, it is still my favourite place to be!

I have lived in Amherstburg my entire life and my family/extended family have been farming fields within Amherstburg for generations. The farm involved in this ZBA has been in the McGuire family for over 100 years. As the years have gone by, one thing that has been consistent for this farm is the importance of maintaining its farmland while having it be a place to raise a family. Now that I have a family of my own (three children all under the age of 5), I want them to experience living on farmland, the importance of maintaining farms, and a farms impact on societal needs. My son Luke, who is currently 4.5, has come to love farming operations. He takes advantage of going on combine rides with his grandpa, who currently owns the farm of this ZBA, and often refers to himself as "Farmer Luke."

The requests in this ZBA are for a driveway that provides a direct access from the road to the house and to extend the house an additional 6m from the allotted 20m from the existing house. Having a driveway that is a direct access is important for various reasons, but the most important would be to provide additional farm access to the fields and for safety concerns. The access would allow farm equipment to enter the field from the north end of the property. Additionally, in case of an emergency, having a direct driveway ensures that all emergency response vehicles can have an uninterrupted path to the house to provide any emergent services that are required. Without a driveway, developed trees would have to be removed from the existing residence to provide access to our house from the existing north driveway.

On the north end of the existing residence, there is a tree line containing a variety of trees that were planted by my father. They have grown quite substantially over the past 30 years and add character and purpose to the property. The additional 6m distance would ensure that the root systems of these trees would not be disturbed or harmed. By building a secondary dwelling, we want the impact on the property to be as little as possible, this means trying to give existing trees the living room they require to keep on growing.

My family and I truly appreciate your considerations to our requests that are involved in this by-law amendment. I have so many great memories on this farm, and I want to be able to pass these down to my own children. Living on this farm ensures that we can help take care of the property and our family. Family has always been a focal point for us and living on this property can aid us in doing so. The exposure to the farmland and its operations is a way to inform our children and others of the importance that farming has in society while building stronger family and community bonds.

Many thanks,

Jessica McGuire-Wasylowich