

Sep 06, 2017

1525 Shasta Place

Mayor Lisa Helps and Councillors,

I would like to provide for you a brief overview of our efforts to date regarding re-building a new home at 1525 Shasta Place which my wife and I purchased in August 2000.

In 2008 we asked Steve Barber, past head of Heritage planning, to visit the property to help us better understand what we could do to construct a new home as this one was put on the heritage registry list sometime in the 1980's by Mr Sam Bawlf.

Mr Barber visited us back in 2008 and shared with us his views about what we could do to re-build our residence.

He said that given the status and the history of the dwelling from its construction as a barn in 1904 , and through the multiple owners and the evolution of the building into a complete house in 1969 we could do the following.

We could take the exterior off, re-do the entire interior & replace all the windows as the vast majority of them and all but one door were collected by the North family in 1969 from demolished homes throughout Victoria. We could raise the height to the Maximum allowable for the lot, we could build a basement and we could add a garage as there's never been one on the property.

He asked that we not demolish the structure and we indicated that it was then , as it is now our intent to disassemble all the special bits of the barn and incorporate them back into our design and build.

Prior to Melinda Conley becoming Senior Heritage Planner we had asked the Acting Senior Heritage Planner Adrian Brett come to the property on Aug 3, 2016 and we explained our wishes to re-build. His response was to our designer, our builder and to my wife Wendy and myself was that he "could support good architecture if we plan to take the existing structure down. We proceeded with our design.

On March 8th this year we had a meeting in City Hall with Rockland Senior Planner Alec Johnston and Thom Pebernat and our Designer, Builder and my wife Wendy and I brought our plans to show them the design we had arrived at.

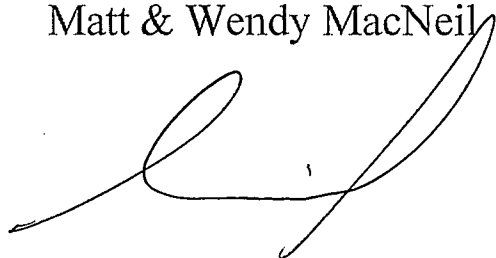
Alec told us during the discussion that we could "Take it down" . I asked what he meant by take it down and he repeated "you can take it down".

We explained that to bring this building to code the existing exterior barn doors will be refinished and re-used inside the new home and that all the other "special parts of the barn" will also be refinished re-used.

So now we have been told by past and current city staff that we are within the existing bylaws to re-build. It's always been our personal preference to preserve and re-use as many "original pieces" but not those collected from a myriad of homes from around Victoria.

Kind Regards,

Matt & Wendy MacNeil

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'M' and 'W' combined, representing Matt & Wendy MacNeil.