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RECEIVED

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BY: _____

Township of Evesham
984 Tuckerton Road
Marlton, NJ 08053

MULHEARN – VARIANCE C APPLICATION: Step 7C, D, and E responses

To whom it may concern;

We bought this beautiful property in the Pinelands because of our love for the outdoors and being part of nature. We reap the benefits of being able to explore the Pinelands daily with our children and dogs. Our intent when we purchased our lot was to install a pool so our three boys could enjoy being outside amongst the trees and nature. We were told that would not be a problem if we stayed within the septic area because they had only cleared about 20% of the trees. On our final survey, we do not have a total for how much was cleared to build our lot, unlike our neighbors.

We are beyond grateful to have found our "magical treehouse" in the woods and we go above and beyond to improve our land to benefit the ecological community. We have a flourishing blueberry crop that thrives in the sandy climate, and we have also installed a pumpkin patch and composting system so we can plant additional crops. In addition to these efforts, we also purchase many seedlings from the Arbor Day foundation that we have been growing for several years so we can plant these on our property to replace some of the trees that were initially cleared to build our home. We have also added tens of thousands of dollars' worth of bushes and shrubs to make our tree house more rugged. Inside our home, you will find over 150 indoor plants and trees. You won't find single use plastics or any other harmful material for the environment. Our house runs on solar energy to keep our environmental impact low. All of this is to say, the last thing we want to do is to remove more trees, but we want to enjoy our residence to its fullest potential and we know we must remove some to gain recreational space for our family.

Our three boys need a reason to not be inside on electronics when it's too hot or the ticks are too bad for us to explore our woods. Every weekend I am packing bags to go down the shore so we can enjoy being in the summer in NJ and I would love to be able to experience

that same pleasure in my backyard without the need to pack and unpack each weekend. I want to enjoy my mortgage, my town, my property to itself fullest potential with my family, here in Evesham Township rather than giving my money to other towns for the same things - food, beverages, entertainment.

Additionally, the community benefits from our residence being within the Pinelands because of the frequent lost hikers we encounter in our outdoor space. At first the trespassing was a little frightening (ask me about the time I was wearing headphones gardening and there were 2 lost hikers tapping my shoulder!), but we have grown to love the stranded hiker so we can put them back on course to their trails within the Pinelands and Black Run Preserve. By further carving out our residence we also deter people from wandering off the trails onto our property. While we are happy to help, we also don't want Black Run hikers wandering about our property while our kids and dogs are outside playing. We will be sure to install a proper fence that is to code for pools to ensure the safety of the members of our community.

We do not want to chop down these additional trees, but it is the smallest impact within our yard that we could find. We will find a way to repurpose each tree either by using them for mulch on the property or for firewood. We have already had several trees fall sick due to the stress their roots endured when the land was cleared for the house. Since we have already lost these trees and many more are not thriving in that area (see page 6), we chose this spot to have the least impact. It also gives our home the recommended buffer for fire per the township. The fires in the Pinelands have made us even more aware of the brush on our property and fallen trees (see page 8) and branches from trees that are not thriving from the construction. Adding this barrier from our house also helps to keep our residence free from worry of fire in the Pinelands which are so near our home. This space is clear from neighbors to minimize their impact from our property gain.

Our hope in the future is to install a vegetable and flower garden as well as a greenhouse to further produce more trees for our forest. We nurture each pine tree seedling on our property in hopes they will grow and thrive.

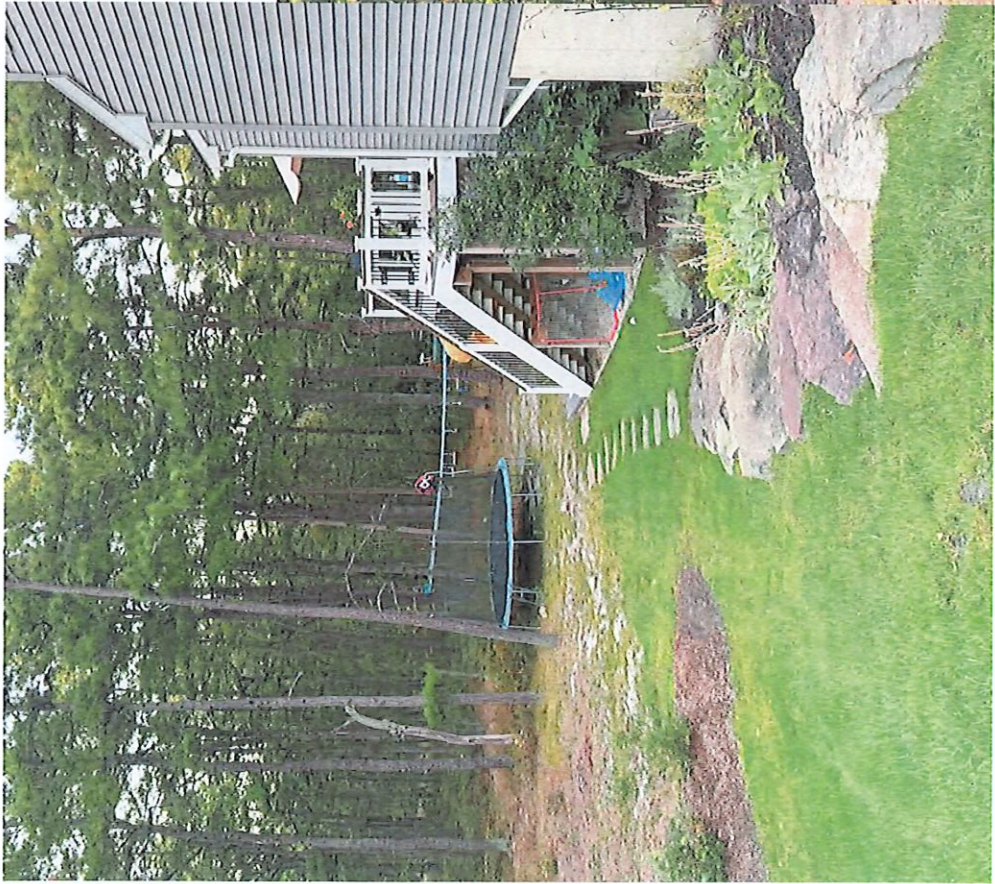
Please understand, we acknowledge cutting these trees down is the last thing we want to do, I hate my neighbors for plowing down their "magical treehouse" and then leaving it desolate so they can look at their plowed fields - for what? But I promise, we will make it up and then some, to our township and our community. Our plan (see [Replanting_PoolPlan_Mulhearn.pdf](#)) also includes replanting trees in our front and side yard so that our canopy will exceed the 40% minimum allotment of clearing.

Thank you for your consideration for this recreational space for our family. We appreciate that we can ask for this exception.

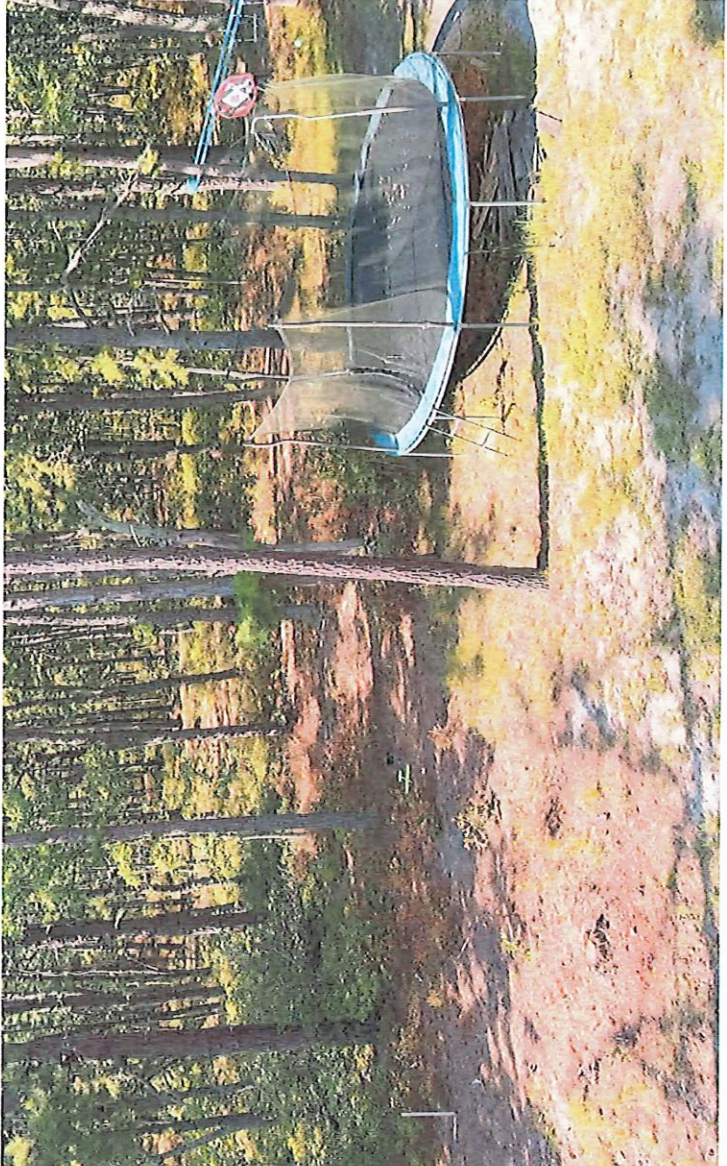
Thank you,

Christina Mulhearn
(Evesham resident of over 10 years)

View of proposed pool area from top of driveway



Close up of proposed pool area





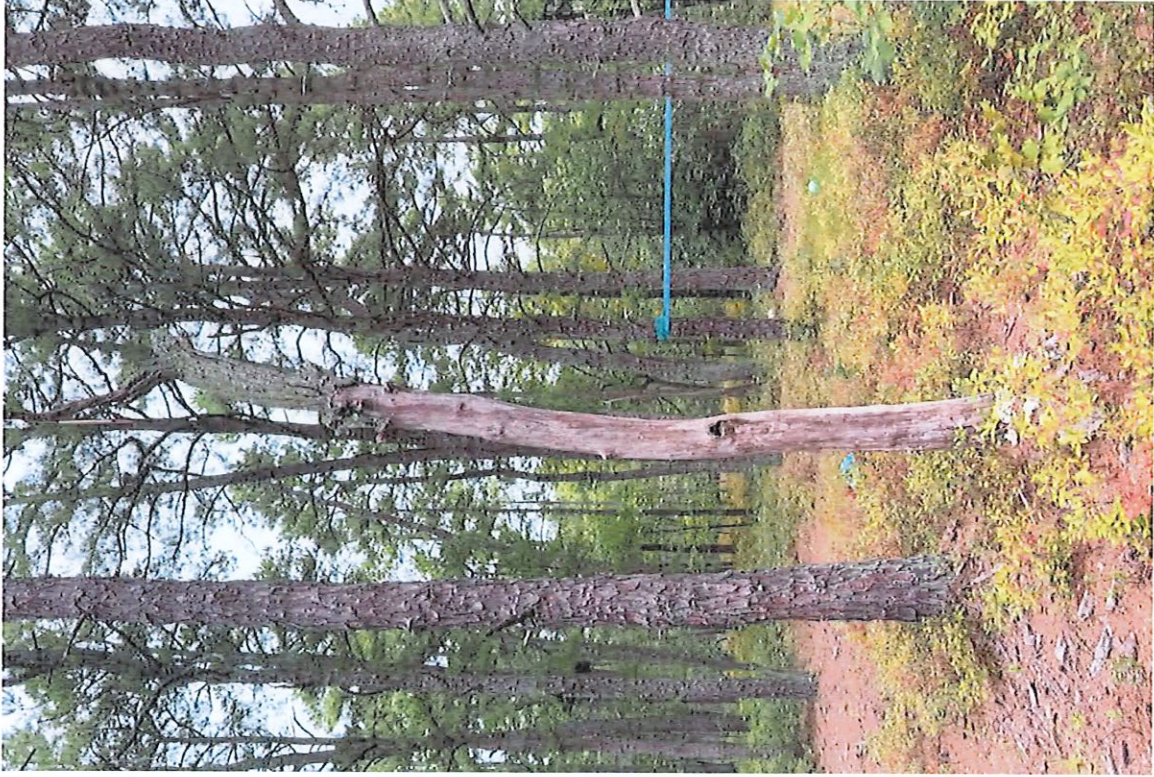
Tree is dying, all its branches
have started to fall

Puny little tree

Tree is already dead

Proposed clearing

Dead tree close up



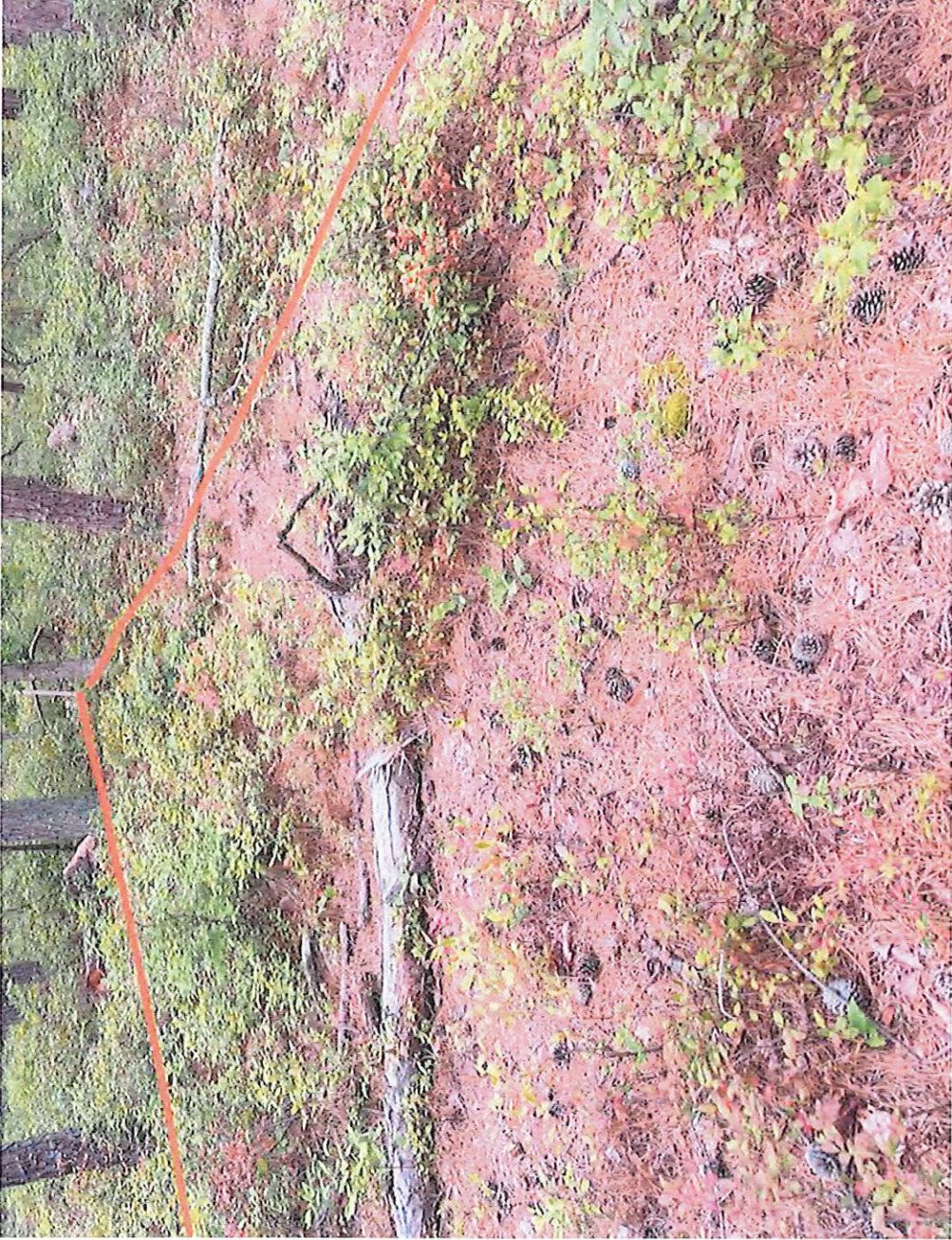
Another dead tree within the
proposed clearing area



Fallen
branches
from
dying
tree



Brush to be removed within the fire buffer





We have been growing native tree seedlings from the Arbor Day Foundation for several years until they mature enough to plant on the property.



We're growing our own blueberries and pumpkins!

