

Committee of Adjustment

Cover letter for:
Panel 3, May 17, 2023

12908824 Canada Ltd., o/a Suntech Greenhouse

12908824 is a family farm owned by 2 Brothers, Benjamin & Devon Allin, They Purchased SunTech April 28, 2021.

We are requesting a minor variance to allow a total Of 40% coverage of the property, which is just slightly over 21 acres. The total coverage would be approximately 8 acres.

The Four Tests:

The variance is minor - we only wish to expand the greenhouse

The variance is desirable for the appropriate development or use of the property. We are not changing how we use the land

The general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law is maintained. We maintain the purpose of the zoning by-law.

The general intent and purpose of the Official Plan is maintained. The intent and purpose of the Official Plan is maintained

Currently our Greenhouse is approx. 4 acres. Which includes a packing area for our products. When 12908824 purchased Suntech we had anticipated an expansion within 5 years. The current mechanicals will allow us to expand to a total of 8 acres. We meet the four tests

With the fall out of covid we are finding that more people are looking to local suppliers. SunTech has always been synonymous with quality, and more people are appreciating the quality of what we have to offer. We are looking to start with a 2 acre addition, moving the tomatoes in zone 1&2 to the newly created zone 4, and expanding our cucumber production into zone 1&2, along with a test plot of leafy greens, and possibly strawberries in a collaboration with Zip Grow to better utilize residual water and fertilizer from the tomatoes. We hope to eventually find a solar solution that allows us to grow tomatoes year round to supply the Ottawa region with fresh Ottawa Grown produce 12 months of the year.

Committee of Adjustment
Received | Reçu le

2023-05-08

City of Ottawa | Ville d'Ottawa
Comité de dérogation

In the greenhouse industry 4 acres is the minimum size operation that is recommended to enable a reasonable ROI. With the drastic increase in the cost of living we realized that an expansion was something we should do sooner to offset the skyrocketing costs. Last winter we had the opportunity to secure a used greenhouse operation from a retiring tomato grower. Moving this operation and its assets, heating pipe etc. provides us with a complete solution at a time when some greenhouses are on hold waiting for the supply chain to deliver the remainder of their parts so that assembly can be completed.

This expansion will allow us to increase the production of fresh produce to help meet the demand of the Ottawa area. Currently SunTech employs 15 people, it is anticipated the expansion will create another 8-10 jobs.