In the textbox below, write 300-500 words addressing the following questions:

 Do you think predictive project management works best for this type of project? If you were to apply agile to your project, what would it look like? Is it better or not? Why?

For my Backyard Deck Project my plan followed a predictive (Waterfall) framework, with a schedule baseline, Gantt chart, budget plan, risk analysis, and post-mortem. Predictive project management was effective for this project because the scope, deliverables, and success criteria were well defined from the outset. In my project, the objective was clear: construct a 12x16 foot deck by June 30, 2025, with specific milestones (foundation by February 28, decking and railing by March 8, finishing by March 30) and a fixed budget of $10,000. The risks, such as weather delays and permit approval, were identifiable and could be mitigated with advance planning. These characteristics made predictive project management a great fit: the work is sequential, dependent on permits, materials, and inspections, and not prone to frequent scope changes.

If Agile methods were applied, the project would look quite different. Agile emphasizes iterative development, frequent stakeholder feedback, and delivering value early and often. For example, instead of one large release, the completed deck, Agile would break the work into short sprints. The first sprint might deliver site preparation and footings, the second sprint the framing, the third sprint partial decking, and subsequent sprints railings and finishing touches. After each sprint, the sponsor and stakeholders would review progress and provide feedback. This might allow adjustments, for example changing the type of decking wood after seeing a sample installed, or adjusting railing design for aesthetics or safety.

There are advantages to the Agile approach. It could increase stakeholder satisfaction, since Ryan and Emilie would see tangible progress at the end of each iteration, instead of waiting for the full project to finish. It could also reduce the risk of dissatisfaction with the final product, as feedback would be incorporated continuously. Also, Agile could help the project adapt if unforeseen constraints arose, for example if there is a supplier shortage of specific wood planks, by reprioritizing backlog items and shifting sprint goals.

Agile may not be the best fit for this type of project. Unlike software development, construction work has heavy dependencies and physical sequencing constraints; you cannot iterate on foundations or framing once installed. Rework is costly, and frequent design changes could exceed the budget and timeline. Also, building permits and inspections often require finalized designs, limiting flexibility. For these reasons, predictive management remains more suitable for a small, fixed-scope construction projects like the deck.

In conclusion, predictive project management was the right choice for the backyard deck. It provided structure, cost control, and risk mitigation for a well-defined scope. While Agile could introduce more flexibility and incremental value, the physical and regulatory constraints of construction make iterative changes impractical. Agile may be better applied to larger renovation projects with evolving design needs, whereas for a focused deck build, predictive planning delivers the best balance of efficiency, cost, and quality.