
From: Sue Hammack <suehammack@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2019 12:18 PM
To: Alex Wenger
Cc: City Council; Michael Jones
Subject: Woodberry Development Opposition

FROM:
Patrick & Susan Hammack
8862 Dunlin Court
Blaine, WA 98230
January 24, 2019

TO:
Alex Wenger, AICP
awenger@cityofblaine.com
Acting Community Development Director
Community Development Services Department
Planning Commission
City of Blaine
435 Martin
Blaine, WA 98230

RE: Woodberry Development Plan

Dear Mr. Wenger,

As owners of Lot #16 in Turnberry Wood, we want to express our complete and utter disgust with the Woodberry Development plan. It defies logic how this plan could have been allowed to progress this far.

It is our understanding that even though it does not fall under the jurisdiction of Semiahmoo and the SRA, this new development is to be held to the standard to 'conform' to the surrounding community. I can't see any way (other than a gate) that this is being accomplished.

1. Clear cut to get rid of buffer from Semiahmoo Parkway. Clear cut? Are you kidding me? Has the City of Blaine learned nothing from all the problems this cases? Not only the environmental impact to animals and vegetation, but to the community aesthetics as well. Who wants to drive down Semiahmoo Parkway and stare at the back of all those houses? No where else in Semiahmoo is that present, so it should NOT be allowed in Woodberry.
2. Fences? Boats? RV's? Trailers? Unthinkable. No where else in Semiahmoo are these items allowed. Again, no conforming with any of these items. Again, a visual nightmare from Semiahmoo Parkway.
3. In reading through materials publicly available, it seems that Woodberry is using land on the OPPOSITE side of the existing Fire House as square footage to be assessed as Open Area. What? This will mean that the density of housing within the gates of Woodberry will exceed what is allowable by code. Again, no conforming here.
4. We were just informed that the home details provided in the PUD application to the City of Blaine shows homes that were to be used in a project over 15 years ago in Cordata in Bellingham. This is not even current information, nor materials prepared for this specific development.
5. We won't even get into the process that occurred to have this piece of land mysteriously show up on maps that depict land outside of the jurisdiction of SRA. There are no words.
6. The SRA went so far as to mention the potential and likelihood of our current property values declining as a result of this project. In no way, shape or form does that conform to the building goal being one that ensures the compatibility of the district. If something brings down our value, it's not conforming. Simple.

As homeowners within close proximity to the proposed Woodberry Development Plat (within 300'), we direct the Planning Commission to perform due diligence and take a much closer look at the proposed development. In its current state, it will do nothing to enhance our community, maintain current property values or be visually pleasing. As far as conforming to existing community standards . . . there is none of that to be found.

The unique character and appeal of Semiahmoo that draws people from far and wide to live in this corner of Whatcom County is being threatened by irresponsible decisions. It is putting this beautiful community in jeopardy - both imminent and long term.

Now is your chance to wake up. Perform due diligence. Seek information. Credible information - not just some hastily written responses jotted down by the property owner in attempts to get around codes, standards and accountability.

It is not too late to do what is right and proper by the citizens of Blaine. Step to the plate, investigate and truly seek conformity. Sea Smoke is a glaring example of what happens when the proper avenues are not followed. Let's not allow this to become a harmful pattern.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to a response as to how you will address these issues.

Submitted,

Patrick & Susan Hammack
8862 Dunlin Court
Blaine, WA 98230

cc:
Blaine City Council - CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com
City Manager - mjones@cityofblaine.com