

Nicole Gaudette

From: ron baltrusis <rbaltrusis@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2020 10:33 AM
To: Nicole Gaudette
Cc: Marcia Baltrusis
Subject: Opposition comments regarding CAO19-015

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above identified permit application. I have been a resident of Mercer Island since 1960. This has been a wonderful community to grow up and to raise my own children. In 1985 I began the development and building of my current home at 7385 SE 38th street. When approaching this project I worked carefully with the city of Mercer Island to assure protection and maintenance of the open space and natural environment known as the Mercerdale Hillside Park. I developed 38th street as it presently exists. Working in partnership with the city at that time we agreed to create an access road which limited any harm to the current green natural environment and trail on the edge of my property. We agreed to have a narrow lane with gravel to allow for natural management of water run off while maintaining the green belt environment. When my neighbors at 7365 built their home we agreed, working with the city, to maintain the natural environment of this lane by not widening the road and continuing to provide a gravel lane to manage the run off. This lane access has served the natural environment without unnecessarily eliminating trees or building any artificial retaining walls. The proposal identified in CAO19-015 result in the destruction of this natural environment by removing old growth evergreen trees, maple trees, creating a retaining wall and a widened hard surface road. All of this is to serve access for one family home. This seems to me to be a dramatic solution for a ONE SINGLE FAMILY HOME. It seems to me that access from Shorecliff Lane or if the city could provide an easement access lane from 76th street would result in less disruption and protect the natural environment maintained thus far by the current 38th street lane and adjoining wilderness trail used by many Mercer Island residents daily. I refer you to the comments from Judy Roan, my immediate neighbor, who has described in detail many of my other concerns regarding this permit. For 35 years we have enjoyed and been blessed by a natural environment of a beautiful natural environment. I hope the future does not replace the beauty of nature with a concrete jungle.

While I believe that there are better access options for the Klein property if the City approves access through the 38th street lane I would request that access the lane be retained as a narrow, gravel road with no retaining wall to allow the least amount of disruption to the beautiful natural environment currently present in this section of the Mercerdale Hillside Park. It is the City's responsibility to "protect Open Space" in the Mercerdale Hillside Park.

Sincerely, Ron Baltrusis 7385 SE 38th Street 206-683-1294 rbaltrusis@msn.com