

Nicole Gaudette

From: Ron & Regina Feinberg <RKFEINBERG@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Nicole Gaudette
Subject: Comments Regarding Request for Steep Slope Alteration, File No. CAO19-015

To: Nicole Gaudette/Senior Planner

Community Planning and Development

City of Mercer Island

RE: Comments Regarding Request for Steep Slope Alteration, File No. CAO19-015

Dear Ms. Guadette,

I am submitting comments in opposition to the request for a steep slope alteration and road construction for a single-family residence as outlined in Public Notice of Application File # CA019-015. I have lived at 3846 West Mercer Way for 25 years, directly adjacent to the proposed road leading to the proposed residence.

I have been informed by the Mercer Island Community and Planning Department that the land directly north of my property (within the first one hundred yards from my fence), currently the Mercerdale Hill green belt, is a protected wetland.

In addition, when I asked your department two years ago if I could possibly build a small driveway from my property eastward, opening up to 76th Ave SE, I was told that due to the narrow width of 76th Ave SE, I would not be allowed to do so because the street could not handle the additional traffic.

I am concerned and dismayed by your department's reversal of these prior statements, your rushed timeline during the Coronavirus, your lack of awareness of the eagle trees and the wetlands, your lack of coordination with other departments responsible for environmental protections, your stated position that the above referenced request is essentially a done deal, your lack of transparency, and your seeming unwillingness for a fair and open public hearing on this matter.

All of this adds up to the appearance of either negligence or corrupt intent.

The City of Mercer Island including your department needs to:

- Schedule a public hearing on this request for after the State of Washington has lifted the restriction that residents stay home, publicly announce the date, time, and location of the hearing at least one month in advance, and arrange to receive and post comments for public review prior to the hearing.
- Ensure that all appropriate local, state, and federal agencies and local environmental advocacy groups relevant to the protection of city property flora and fauna are invited to attend the hearing.
- Be fully transparent throughout the process including deliberations and decision-making.

Facilitating thorough and transparent discussion of this request will go a long way to maintaining trust that our local government serves the interest of the citizens of Mercer Island.

Sincerely, Ron K. Feinberg

