

From: Rosanne Lapan
To: [Lauren Anderson](#)
Cc: [Jim Harnisch](#); [Susan Cook](#); william.ellis2@comcast.net
Subject: Re: Velamoor fence variance petition
Date: Saturday, February 18, 2017 4:02:55 PM

Dear Lauren,

I live at 7 Eden Lane, Mercer Island, just north of the Harnisch's. The Valamoor's property is actually #2 Eden Lane, with access onto our Eden Lane, although they are using a different mailbox address.

Most of us on Eden Lane did not receive notice of DEV17-001 and the billboard on West Mercer Way announcing this petition is not visible due to where it is placed; the parked cars blocking it's view.

I concur with everything that the Harnish's and Cook's have stated in their objection to this petition. On our Lane, we also have limited visibility as we drive up to West Mercer Way. It is difficult to see approaching cars from either direction, and anything that further affects and reduces visibility will create a more dangerous approach than already exists.

In addition, I strongly agree that a 6' fence surrounding this property is out of character for our neighborhood, and I am concerned that allowing this variance may set a precedent as well.

Furthermore, as I sit at the bottom of Eden Lane, our property has been greatly affected by the new construction at the top which has demolished many trees along with their root structures which have supported the earth underneath. We have had flooding due to the excess water running down from above, which we never had for all these many years that I have resided here. Accordingly, I am also concerned about further tree removal and/or root damage.

I object to this petition for these many reasons. Please also let me know that you have received this letter.

Best regards, Rosanne Lapan

[Rosanne F. Lapan](#)
RFLapan@gmail.com
Cell: 206-323-3300

On Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 4:43 PM, Lauren Anderson <Lauren.Anderson@mercergov.org> wrote:

James and Kathleen Harnisch,

The City of Mercer Island's Development Services Group would like to inform you that we have received your comments and objection in regards to DEV17-001. We will take your

comments and suggestions into consideration. You are now a Party of Record, and will be notified of any changes and will be mailed the final notice of decision. I've forwarded your email to John Kenney, our City Arborist, of your concerns.

Regards,

Lauren Anderson // Assistant Planner

City of Mercer Island Development Services Group

9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer island, WA 98040

[206.275.7704](tel:206.275.7704)

lauren.anderson@mercergov.org

For more information of the status of permits go to www.mybuildingpermit.com

For information about a geographic area go to <http://pubmaps.mercergov.org>.

To view application forms and other zoning information checkout <http://www.mercergov.org/Page.asp?NavID=361>

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From: Jim Harnisch [mailto:jpharnisch@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 4:23 PM

To: Lauren Anderson <Lauren.Anderson@mercergov.org>

Cc: 'Susan Cook' <surocook@mac.com>; william.ellis2@comcast.net; rflapan@gmail.com

Subject: Velamoor fence variance petition

Ms. Anderson

Assistant Planner

City of Mercer Island Development Services Group

The Velamoor new house construction is along the northeast border of our driveway which is shared with the Cook family who is our upland neighbor. The Velamoor's have filed a petition with the City for a variance to permit construction of a 6 foot fence along our driveway property line as well as along their border with West Mercer Way. We are concerned that a 6 foot high fence is completely out of character with the neighborhood and would establish an unfortunate precedent for other homes in the area. A feeling of a locked in corridor with diminished open space would be the result. No other homes in our area have resorted to this high fencing along West Mercer. The City's arborist can suggest excellent tall vegetation (such as soldier trees) as an alternative or as a supplement to a lower fence. My point is applicable to both the property line along our driveway as well as that along West Mercer Way.

We also request the City Arborist to provide specific guidance as to the location of fence posts along our mutual property line to avoid root damage to existing trees that already provide excellent shielding.

An added concern is potential reduced visibility looking north when we exit our driveway if a higher fence is constructed. During their 3-4 year construction vehicles have constantly impaired our visibility creating near accidents. Although not the same situation, the higher fence would still reduce visibility. I have reported this safety concern to our Police Department.

Both the Cook and Ellis families have discussed their

concerns with us for the effect of a 6 foot fence along our driveway and how natural vegetation and/or trees would be an improved solution. We are all in agreement that the variance should not be granted. Please ask our arborist for her input.

Regards,

James P. Harnisch, M.D. FAAD

Kathleen Bayer Harnisch

6759 West Mercer Way

Mercer Island, WA 98040

N.B. Please acknowledge receipt of this communication