

BEFORE THE
SNOHOMISH COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER
DECISION of the DEPUTY HEARING EXAMINER

In the Matter of the Application of)
) **FILE NO. 05 128316**
PAUL BRADFORD)
)
6-lot Rural Cluster Subdivision (RCS) on 18.71 acres)

DATE OF DECISION: July 13, 2006

PROJECT NAME: *Haven Hill*

DECISION (SUMMARY): The requested six-lot rural cluster subdivision is **CONDITIONALLY APPROVED.**

BASIC INFORMATION

GENERAL LOCATION: The property is located at 4127 268th Street NW, Stanwood, Washington.

ACREAGE: 18.71 acres

NUMBER OF LOTS: 6

AVERAGE LOT SIZE: 43,570square feet

MINIMUM LOT SIZE: 43,570 square feet

DENSITY: .32 du/ac (gross)

ZONING: R-5

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:

General Policy Plan Designation: Rural Residential-5 (1 du/5 ac)

Subarea Plan: Northwest

Subarea Plan Designation: Rural (1 du/ 2.3 – 5 ac)

UTILITIES:

Water: Individual wells
Sewer: Individual septic systems

SCHOOL DISTRICT: Stanwood-Camano

FIRE DISTRICT: No. 14

SELECTED AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Department of:
Planning and Development Services (PDS): Approval subject to conditions
Public Works (DPW): Approval subject to conditions

INTRODUCTION

The applicant filed the Master Application on December 1, 2005. (Exhibit 1)

The Department of Planning and Development Services (PDS) gave proper public notice of the open record hearing as required by the county code. (Exhibits 17, 18 and 19)

A SEPA determination was made on May 5, 2006. (Exhibit 16) No appeal was filed.

The Examiner held an open record hearing on June 22, 2006, the 98th day of the 120-day decision making period. Witnesses were sworn, testimony was presented, and exhibits were entered at the hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing commenced on June 22, 2006 at 2:03 p.m.

1. The Examiner announced that he had read the PDS staff report, reviewed the file and viewed the area and therefore was generally apprised of the particular request involved.
2. The applicant, Paul Bradford, was represented by Chris Suiter of Metron & Associates. Snohomish County was represented by Monica McLaughlin of the Department of Planning and Development Services.
3. No member of the public participated in the proceeding by letter or by testimony.

The hearing concluded at 2:09 p.m.

NOTE: For a complete record, an electronic recording of this hearing is available in the Office of the Hearing Examiner.

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISION

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based on all the evidence of record, the following findings of fact are entered.

1. The master list of exhibits and witnesses which is a part of this file and which exhibits were considered by the Examiner, is hereby made a part of this file as if set forth in full herein.
2. The applicant, Paul Bradford, filed an application to subdivide approximately 19 acres into six lots as a rural cluster subdivision pursuant to SCC 30.41C. Each lot will have a single family residence with a well and a septic system. An existing single family home will be retained. Sixty four percent of the site will be preserved as restricted open space.
3. Access will be from the north side of 268th Street NW (the Stanwood-Bryant Road). The proposed six lots will generate 48 daily vehicular trips, of which four trips will be morning peak hour trips and five will be p.m. trips. On a site visit, the Examiner noticed a gully or depression to the east of 39th Drive NW into the Snowbird Plat and noted a potential driver's sight distance problem there. That issue is addressed in the staff reports Condition B.ii requiring that sufficient sight distance shall be provided at the proposed access.
4. An 8-foot paved shoulder for a walkway is required along one side of the interior plat road from the cul-de-sac to 268th Street NW. Also, rural standard frontage improvements are required no later than prior to occupancy. The school bus stop is located within that frontage. Thus, safe passage for students is provided.
5. No rezone is requested.
6. The DPW reviewed the request with regard to traffic mitigation and road design standards. This review covered Title 13 SCC and Chapter 30.66B SCC (Title 26B SCC) as to road system capacity, concurrency, inadequate road conditions, frontage improvements, access and circulation, and dedication/deeding of right-of-way, state highway impacts, impacts on other streets and roads, and Transportation Demand Management. As a result of this review, the DPW has determined that the development is concurrent and has no objection to the requests subject to various conditions.
7. The project would comply with park mitigation requirements under Chapter 30.66A SCC (Title 26A SCC) by the payment of \$811.29 for each new single-family home.
8. School mitigation requirements under Chapter 30.66C SCC (Title 26C SCC) have been reviewed and set forth in the conditions.
9. There are no wetlands or other critical areas as defined by Snohomish County Critical Areas Regulations (SCC 30.62) on or within 100 feet of the subject property.
10. The PDS Engineering Division has reviewed the concept of the proposed grading and drainage and recommends approval of the project subject to conditions, which would be imposed during full detailed drainage plan review pursuant to Chapter 30.63A SCC (Title 24 SCC).

11. The Snohomish County Health District has no objection to this proposal being served by individual lots' private wells and septic systems.
12. The subject property is designated Rural Residential-5 on the GPP Future Land Use map, and is not located within an Urban Growth Area (UGA). It is not located within a mapped Growth Phasing Overlay. According to the GPP, the Rural Residential-5 designation applies to lands which were previously designated Rural by various subarea plans and have been subsequently zoned R-5. The implementing zone in this designation will continue to be the R-5 zone.
13. The proposed use (single-family detached development) is essentially compatible with existing single-family detached developments on larger lots. A comparison with the present lower density character of much of the area is inappropriate since the present density of development in much of the surrounding area is inconsistent with both the adopted comprehensive plans and the present zoning.
14. The request complies with the Snohomish County Subdivision Code, Chapter 30.41A SCC (Title 19 SCC) as well as the State Subdivision Code, RCW 58.17. The proposed plat complies with the established criteria therein and makes the appropriate provisions for public, health, safety and general welfare, for open spaces, drainage ways, streets or roads, alleys, other public ways, transit stops, potable water supplies, sanitary wastes, parks and recreation, playgrounds, schools and school grounds, and other planning features including safe walking conditions for students.
15. The proposed plat also meets Chapter 30.41A SCC requirements. A complete application for the proposed plat was received by PDS on May 31, 2005. The proposed plat as conditioned also meets the general requirements under Section 30.41A.100 with respect to health, safety and general welfare of the community as noted in this report. As proposed, the subject lots will not be subject to flood, inundation or swamp conditions. The lots as proposed are outside of all regulated flood hazard areas. As conditioned, the plat will meet all SCC 30.41A.210 design standards for roads.
16. The subject rural cluster subdivision (RCS) application has been reviewed for conformance with the RCS standards in Chapter 30.41C SCC. The applicant has provided the information required on an RCS development plan and preliminary plat, the latest versions of which were received by PDS on February 1, 2006 (Exhibit 15), and in an open space management plan (Exhibit 8) that is to be implemented by a homeowner's association. The RCS application meets all of the criteria required for preliminary approval listed in SCC 30.41C.200.
17. The request is consistent with Section 30.70.100 SCC (Section 32.50.100 SCC), which requires, pursuant to RCW 36.70B.040, that all project permit applications be consistent with the GMACP, and GMA-based county codes.
18. Any finding of fact in this decision which should be deemed a conclusion is hereby adopted as such.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the findings of fact entered above, the following conclusions of law are entered.

1. The Examiner having fully reviewed the PDS staff report, hereby adopts said staff report as properly setting forth the issues, the land use requests, consistency with the existing regulations, policies, principles, conditions and their effect upon the request. It is therefore hereby adopted by the Examiner as a conclusion as if set forth in full herein, in order to avoid needless repetition.

2. The Department of Public Works recommends that the request be approved as to traffic use subject to conditions specified below herein.
3. The request is consistent with the (1) GMACP, GMA-based County codes, (2) the type and character of land use permitted on the site, (3) the permitted density, and(4) the applicable design and development standards.
4. The request should be approved subject to compliance by the applicant with the following conditions:

CONDITIONS:

- A. The preliminary plat, received by Planning and Development Services (PDS) on March 16, 2006 (Exhibit 13) shall be the approved plat. Changes to approved preliminary plats are governed by SCC 30.41A.330.
- B. Prior to initiation of any further site work, and/or prior to issuance of any development permits by the county;
 - i. A detailed landscape plan for the required perimeter buffers and detention pond shall have been submitted to and approved by PDS. The plan shall be in conformance with Exhibit 5.
 - ii. Sufficient sight distance shall be provided at the proposed access.
- C. The following additional restrictions and/or items shall be indicated on the face of the final plat:
 - i. “The lots within this subdivision will be subject to school impact mitigation fees for the Stanwood-Camano School District to be determined by the certified amount within the Base Fee Schedule in effect at the time of building permit application, and to be collected prior to building permit issuance, in accordance with the provisions of SCC 30.66C.010. Credit shall be given for one existing parcel. Lot 3 (retaining an existing single family residence) shall receive credit.”
 - ii. “The developer shall pay the County \$811.29 per single family unit as mitigation for impacts to the Kayak Point park service area of the County parks system in accordance with SCC 30.66A. Payment of these mitigation fees is required prior to building permit issuance, provided that the building permit is issued by December 1, 2010 (5 years after the completeness date of the subject application). After this date, park impact fees shall be based upon the rate in effect at the time of building permit issuance.”
 - iii. Chapter 30.66B SCC requires the new lot mitigation payments in the amounts shown below for each single-family residential building permit:
 - \$2,143.68 per lot for mitigation of impacts on county roads paid to the County,
 - \$209.68 per lot (\$1,048.38 total) for mitigation of impacts on Arlington streets paid to the City
 - \$886.45 per lot (\$4,432.25 total) for mitigation of impacts on Stanwood streets paid to the City
 - \$344.52 per lot for mitigation of impacts on state highways paid to the CountyThese payments are due prior to or at the time of each building permit issuance. Notice of these mitigation payments shall be contained in any deeds involving this subdivision, short subdivision of the lots therein or binding site plan. Once building permits have been issued all mitigation payments shall be deemed paid by PDS.

- iv. The owners, their heirs, successors, and assigns, with legal ownership rights to the private road easement containing the proposed road of 42nd Ave NW shall agree and covenant to dedicate this easement to become the County's right-of-way at any time the County determines that a public road conversion is necessary, or it is required for further development of any of the lots within the subdivision. Addition, the above parties shall agree to a "No Protest" to the conversion of the 42nd Ave NW road easement and the encompassing private road to a public road.
- v. All utilities shall be underground.
- vi. The landscape buffers shall be maintained as vegetated buffers. The entire buffer width shall be maintained with sight obscuring vegetation.

D. Prior to recording of the final plat:

- i. Rural standard frontage improvements consisting of 11 feet of paved roadway from centerline of right-of-way with a 7 foot paved shoulder shall be constructed along the property frontage with 268th Street NW unless bonding of improvements is allowed, in which case construction is required prior to any occupancy of the development. [SCC 30.66B.410]
- ii. An 8-foot attached paved shoulder walkway shall be constructed along one side of the interior plat road from the cul-de-sac to 268th St. NW. [RCW 58.17.110 and SCC 30.66B.430 (O)]
- iii. The landscaping shown on the approved landscaping plan shall be installed and inspected.
- iv. Covenants, deeds and homeowners association bylaws and other documents as appropriate, to be recorded prior to, or simultaneously with, final plat recording shall have been approved as to substance and completeness by the Department of Planning and Development Services, and shall at a minimum:
 - a. Establish all restricted open space as shown on the approved preliminary plat in separate tracts. The restricted open space areas shall be protected in perpetuity and restricted to those uses specified on the plans.
 - b. Establish a Homeowner's Association, guaranteeing maintenance of restricted open space, including required sight obscuring buffers, open space, detention facilities, and all other commonly owned and operated property in a manner which assures continued use for the purpose intended. Membership in the homeowners association and payment of dues or other assessments for maintenance purposes shall be a binding requirement of lot ownership.
- v. PDS staff shall confirm that the sight obscuring buffer continues to perform its sight obscuring function.

Nothing in this permit/approval excuses the applicant, owner, lessee, agent, successor or assigns from compliance with any other federal, state or local statutes, ordinances or regulations applicable to this project.

Preliminary plats which are approved by the county are valid for five (5) years from the date of approval and must be recorded within that time period unless an extension has been properly requested and granted pursuant to SCC 30.41A.300.

5. Any conclusion in this decision which should be deemed a finding of fact is hereby adopted as such.

DECISION

Based on the findings of fact and conclusions of law entered above, the decision of the Hearing Examiner on the application is as follows:

The request for a 6-lot rural cluster subdivision on 18.71 acres is hereby **CONDITIONALLY APPROVED**, subject to the conditions set forth in Conclusion No. 4 above.

Decision issued this 13th day of July, 2006.

Ed Good, Deputy Hearing Examiner

EXPLANATION OF RECONSIDERATION AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

The decision of the Hearing Examiner is final and conclusive with right of appeal to the County Council. However, reconsideration by the Examiner may also be sought by one or more parties of record. The following paragraphs summarize the reconsideration and appeal processes. For more information about reconsideration and appeal procedures, please see Chapter 30.72 SCC and the respective Examiner and Council Rules of Procedure.

Reconsideration

Any party of record may request reconsideration by the Examiner. A petition for reconsideration must be filed in writing with the Office of the Hearing Examiner, 2nd Floor, County Administration-East Building, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, Washington, (Mailing Address: M/S #405, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett WA 98201) on or before **JULY 24, 2006**. There is no fee for filing a petition for reconsideration. **“The petitioner for reconsideration shall mail or otherwise provide a copy of the petition for reconsideration to all parties of record on the date of filing.” [SCC 30.72.065]**

A petition for reconsideration does not have to be in a special form but must: contain the name, mailing address and daytime telephone number of the petitioner, together with the signature of the petitioner or of the petitioner’s attorney, if any; identify the specific findings, conclusions, actions and/or conditions for which reconsideration is requested; state the relief requested; and, where applicable, identify the specific nature of any newly discovered evidence and/or changes proposed by the applicant.

The grounds for seeking reconsideration are limited to the following:

- (a) The Hearing Examiner exceeded the Hearing Examiner's jurisdiction;
- (b) The Hearing Examiner failed to follow the applicable procedure in reaching the Hearing Examiner's decision;
- (c) The Hearing Examiner committed an error of law;
- (d) The Hearing Examiner's findings, conclusions and/or conditions are not supported by the record;
- (e) New evidence which could not reasonably have been produced and which is material to the decision is discovered; or
- (f) The applicant proposed changes to the application in response to deficiencies identified in the decision.

Petitions for reconsideration will be processed and considered by the Hearing Examiner pursuant to the provisions of SCC 30.72.065. Please include the County file number in any correspondence regarding this case.

Appeal

An appeal to the County Council may be filed by any aggrieved party of record. Where the reconsideration process of SCC 30.72.065 has been invoked, no appeal may be filed until the reconsideration petition has been disposed of by the hearing examiner. An aggrieved party need not file a petition for reconsideration but may file an appeal directly to the County Council. If a petition for reconsideration is filed, issues subsequently raised by that party on appeal to the County Council shall be limited to those issues raised in the petition for reconsideration. Appeals shall be addressed to the Snohomish County Council but shall be filed in writing with the Department of Planning and Development Services, 2nd Floor, County Administration-East Building, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, Washington (Mailing address: M/S #604, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA 98201) on or before **JULY 27, 2006** and shall be accompanied by a filing fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00); PROVIDED, that the filing fee shall not be charged to a department of the County or to other than the first appellant; and PROVIDED FURTHER, that the filing fee shall be refunded in any case where an appeal is dismissed without hearing because of untimely filing, lack of standing, lack of jurisdiction or other procedural defect. [SCC 30.72.070]

An appeal must contain the following items in order to be complete: a detailed statement of the grounds for appeal; a detailed statement of the facts upon which the appeal is based, including citations to specific Hearing Examiner findings, conclusions, exhibits or oral testimony; written arguments in support of the appeal; the name, mailing address and daytime telephone number of each appellant, together with the signature of at least one of the appellants or of the attorney for the appellant(s), if any; the name, mailing address, daytime telephone number and signature of the appellant's agent or representative, if any; and the required filing fee.

The grounds for filing an appeal shall be limited to the following:

- (a) The decision exceeded the Hearing Examiner's jurisdiction;
- (b) The Hearing Examiner failed to follow the applicable procedure in reaching his decision;

- (c) The Hearing Examiner committed an error of law; or
- (d) The Hearing Examiner's findings, conclusions and/or conditions are not supported by substantial evidence in the record. [SCC 30.72.080]

Appeals will be processed and considered by the County Council pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 30.72 SCC. Please include the County file number in any correspondence regarding the case.

Staff Distribution:

Department of Planning and Development Services: Monica McLaughlin
Department of Public Works: Anh-Tuan Dinh

The following statement is provided pursuant to RCW 36.70B.130: "Affected property owners may request a change in valuation for property tax purposes notwithstanding any program of revaluation." A copy of this Decision is being provided to the Snohomish County Assessor as required by RCW 36.70B.130.