

McMinnville Planning Commission
C/O Ms. Heather Richards, Planning Director
231 NE Fifth St.
McMinnville, Or.
97128

April 30, 2021
May 18, 2021

RE: ~~Variance Request (VR 1-21) Mary and Steve Allen~~ MP 6-20

Minor partition (MP6-20)

My name is Robert Tracey and I live just outside of the area of notification for this ~~variance~~ request, at 1160 SW Tall Oak Drive. I did not receive notice of this request, and learned of it just a couple of days ago, while visiting with neighbors. I was interested and had the application documents forwarded to me. After reviewing the documents, visiting the site, and the existing access to the lots in question, I believe it would prove detrimental to the cities effort to maintain safe vehicle and pedestrian passage at the intersection of Fellows St. and the proposed access road, as well as the cities efforts to mitigate the detrimental effects of our current climate crisis.

If this request were approved, it is likely the the daily number of entries and departures of the site will increase by as many as 10 to 18, causing the existing driveway to function essentially as a common city street. Vehicles traveling south over the hill above the driveway oftentimes come quickly. Without significant engineering and construction at the intersection, this will become a dangerous site.

More importantly, the removal of several large and diverse species of trees and other vegetation at the site will prove detrimental to the cities efforts to mitigate the negative effects of global climate change. Climate change constitutes an existential threat to the continuing habitability of our planet and I believe it is the responsibility of every individual, as well as every level of government to do all we can to mitigate the most severe effects of this ongoing tragedy. This problem is not in some distant future, it is here and now. 19 of the hottest years recorded in human history have occurred since the turn of the century in 2000. And the problem is accelerating. Naturally functioning ecosystems, particularly forests, constitute our best opportunity to sequester carbon already present in the atmosphere and have the potential to trap this carbon, essentially in perpetuity, in the healthy, functioning soils beneath the forest. The litter that naturally falls in the forest, leaves, needles, bark, fruits and cones contain significant quantities of carbon that has been removed from the atmosphere. In a healthy soil, this litter is decomposed by the myriad of microorganisms existing in the soil and ultimately converted to a stabilized humus that serves to increase the soils carbon content and is trapped potentially for centuries. This is analogous to the process that provided the fossil fuels we have used since the beginning of the industrial revolution, and has caused our current problems by their release back to the atmosphere.

I believe every decision made, at every level of government, must consider the effects on our current climate crisis. The carbon sequestration inherent at this site should be protected to maintain the beneficial ecosystem services it currently provides. I respectfully request this request for a ~~variance~~ to the existing ordinances be denied.

Minor partition (MP-6-20)

Sincerely,

Robert Tracey
Robert Tracey

1160 SW Tall Oaks Dr.
McMinnville, OR
97128
rob.tracey06@gmail.com

