



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Approval of request by E & M, Inc. (Society Hill) for one-year extension, to October 9, 2024, of site plan approval for a 312-unit apartment project developed as a PD-1 Option in a multi-family (RM-1) district, located at the southwest corner of Novi Road and 12 ½ Mile Road, previously extended under a consent judgment and subject to annual extension reviews.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Community Development, Planning

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Attached is the request from E & M, Inc. for a one-year extension of site plan approval for Society Hill, along with a copy of the general plan. Society Hill is a proposed 312-unit multiple-family project located on about 24 acres of land on the west side of Novi Road, south of Twelve and One-Half Mile Road. The following summary of the 2001 Consent Judgment was provided previously by the applicant's attorney:

The site plan was approved in the normal course by the City and was later included as a part of a Consent Judgment, which resolved the City's condemnation of land to widen Novi Road, a dispute concerning a sewer special assessment district ("SAD 94"), and the City's request for easements along Arena Drive (Arena Drive area dedication was adjacent to property owned by the same developer). Under the terms of the Consent Judgment, E & M conveyed the Novi Road land to the City, agreed to complete the SAD 94 sewer line and granted easements to the City along Arena Drive. The Society Hill site plan approval was extended for five years with a provision for annual City Council extensions thereafter.

The Judgment further provides that, if the site plan approval is not extended, the obligations for E & M to complete the SAD 94 sewer line to Twelve and One-Half Mile Road shall be void, and the City shall be obligated to complete the sewer line as originally planned and routed. Since there is a large wetland complex in this area, a State Wetland Permit would be required.

Review of the status of SAD 94

The City's Engineering Division reviewed the Society Hill Consent Judgment and SAD 94 and associated costs for the construction of the sanitary sewer construction. Total project construction estimates for the remainder of the SAD 94 sanitary sewer would be approximately \$436,500. The City's review also noted that a major obstacle for the City to construct the remainder of the SAD 94 sanitary sewer is that the City does not appear to have any easements on the Society Hill parcels needed to construct the sewer.

The Engineering Division's review further notes that there have been a number of developments in the original SAD 94 service area. The attached map shows the original service area for SAD 94 and the location of the constructed SAD 94 sanitary sewer.

Since the time SAD 94 was first conceived, the following developments have taken place:

- Carlton Forest and Charneth Fen extended the sanitary sewer through those sites to 12-1/2 Mile Road,
- Bolingbrooke was approved to extend sanitary sewer from Vista Hills to the area north of 12-1/2 Mile Road (including service to the existing residential parcels west of the development),
- The recent site developments along 12 Mile Road have extended the sanitary sewer to the west from SAD 94,
- Lotus Bank (acquired by Level One Bancorp) extended sanitary sewer from 12 Mile Road north on Dixon for future service to the southern half of Dixon Road, and
- Liberty Park has extended sanitary sewer to Dixon Road to ultimately serve the northern half of Dixon.

With the exception of a few parcels along Dixon Road, which no longer require the SAD 94 sanitary sewer for service, (and for which the Dixon Meadows rezoning with PRO was approved for several parcels), the developer of Society Hill is the only parcel that requires extension of the SAD 94. The sanitary sewer currently terminates at the southwest corner of the proposed development and is available for extension.

The attached map better illustrates the original SAD 94 service area, the existing sanitary sewer in the area, the parcels that are no longer served by SAD 94, and the location of Society Hill.

In short, it appears that the lack of recorded easements stands in the way of the City's construction of the sanitary sewer required under the consent judgment, and it is noted that at this point, the required sanitary sewer construction would primarily serve the Society Hill Development, as the surrounding properties have provided alternative sanitary service.

Discussions to consider modifications to the approved site plan

Earlier this year, the applicant indicated that a review of the site plan would be appropriate. At that time, the applicant took a few steps toward the development of a new plan. Since the applicant has not yet formally submitted a new or revised plan for consideration, the applicant is again requesting a one-year extension of the site plan as provided for in the terms of the Consent Judgment. The City Council has granted one-year extensions of the site plan approval each year since 2006. The applicant is now requesting another one-year extension of the site plan approval. The Consent Judgment does not provide for any limits to the number of extensions that may be granted.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of request by E & M, Inc. (Society Hill) for one-year extension, to October 9, 2024, of site plan approval for a 312-unit apartment project developed as a PD-1 Option in a multi-family (RM-1) district, located at the southwest corner of Novi Road and 12 ½ Mile Road, previously extended under a consent judgment and subject to annual extension reviews.