(509)427-5970

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371 Stevenson, Washington 98648

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Ben Shumaker, Short Plat Administrator

DATE: July 11th, 2022

SUBJECT: Proposed Short Plat (SP2022-03)

Introduction

The Planning Department has received a complete short plat application for division of property on East Loop Road. The property is currently vacant and has no address. The tax lot number for the property is 03-75-36-3-0-0202-00.

The property is located in the R1 Single-Family Residential District. The proposal would divide the property into 2 lots of 15,001 and 22,524 square feet. The lots would be served by public water and onsite septic systems.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission review a neighbor's concern and provide a recommendation on the project.

Relevant City Policies

<u>SMC 16.02.110(C)</u>: After the short plat administrator determines that the proposed short plat application and map contain the required information and data, the short plat administrator shall distribute copies of the short plat application and map to the following as is necessary:...

4. City Planning Commission.

<u>SMC 16.02.120(F)</u>: The Planning Commission may submit any findings and recommendations to the administrator for any short plat applications it has decided to review.

Public Comments

ISSUE: Groundwater quality.

REPORT: Staff received verbal comments from Gerald Larsen, an adjacent landowner. The property is located immediately south and down-gradient from the proposal. The comments related to the proposed use of septic systems and the subsurface flow of water which is believed to be very shallow. Colorful parts of the description involve water coming out of mole hills. He relayed multiple times his desire not to derail the project. He also supplied the attached map showing where there is a shallow well and where groundwater interacts with the foundation of the home.

INVESTIGATION: Staff investigated this issue by calling the Skamania County Environmental Health Department responsible for septic reviews. Nikki Rohan, the health officer described the septic permitting process and the approval issued for this proposal. Details discussed included the water percolation tests performed, the lack of standing water in the test holes, and water's general tendency to go downward, not laterally. The health officer also discussed the project with Mr. Larsen but saw insufficient reason to reconsider the approval.

OPTIONS: The Planning Commission should evaluate the comment and decide whether to make a

recommendation on this application. Amongst the range of recommendations, staff highlights the four below in order from least restrictive to most restrictive:

- 1- Make no recommendation on the proposal and entrust the decision to the administrative officials.
- 2- Recommend including a requirement to connect to City sewer when available.
- 3- Recommend including a requirement to connect to City sewer when available and a requirement to participate in the cost of the extension.
- 4- Recommend immediate extension and connection to the City sewer system.

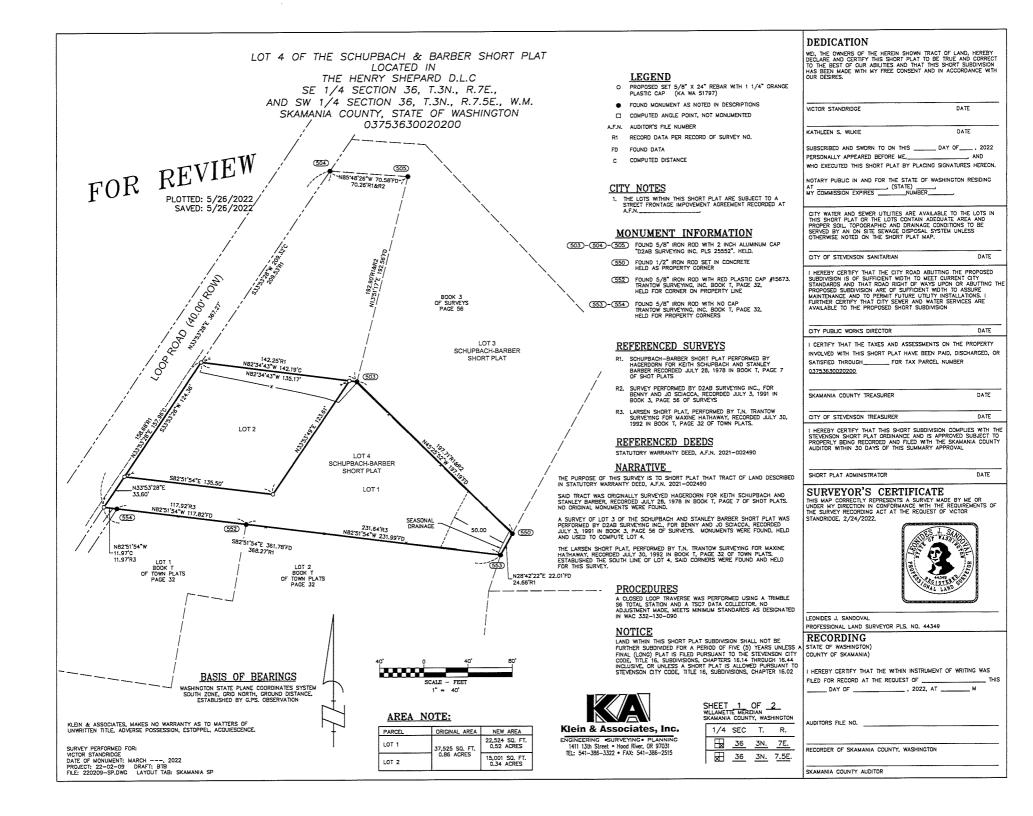
Staff can offer no professional guidance on this issue.

Thank you,

Ben Shumaker

Attachments

- Proposed plat map
- Map submitted by adjacent landowner



From JERRYD Chrose 2202/2/

