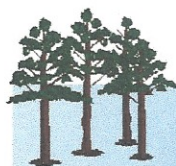
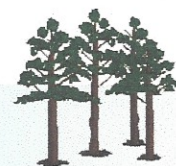


Correspondence



RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (RCCC) A Forum for Respectful Communication & Community Relations



1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100 / Anchorage, AK 99503

Stephanie Mormilo, Municipal Traffic Engineer
Traffic Department
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Anchorage, AK 99516

South Goldenview Rural Road Service Area:
Mark Schimscheimer, m.schimscheimer@gmail.com
Marty Lemon, mlemonHOA@petroak.com
Tim Culhane, trculhane@gmail.com

April 12, 2019

Dear Ms. Mormilo, Mr. Schimscheimer, Mr. Lemon, and Mr. Culhane:

Neighbors in the Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) area came to the March 14, 2019, RCCC meeting to express their concern with a maintenance problem that has affected them on the 172nd Avenue/utility easement between Belarde Avenue and Feodosia Drive. They also requested assistance with the continuing resolution of this problem so as to prevent a safety hazard. The RCCC is also interested in ensuring similar issues do not occur in the future in our neighborhood.

I have spoken with all of you, and we appreciate that all three South Goldenview Rural Road Service Area (RRSA) members, as well as the affected homeowners, attended the March 14th RCCC meeting where this issue was discussed. Unfortunately, there is some difference of opinion on the efforts that were or were not made to notify homeowners about the extensive maintenance that was undertaken on this utility easement. At this point, no one can go back and fix that issue; our comments are presented in an effort to prevent similar problems with other RRSA issues.

In brief, this neighborhood joined the RRSA in 2013. Initially, the road contractor used a small truck to provide winter maintenance (plowing and graveling) to reach the home of Pat Kurth, at the end of a steep road pitch at the eastern end of 172nd Ave. Beyond Ms. Kurth's driveway, 172nd becomes a utility easement, continuing east up further steep pitches to join 172nd Ave at Belarde, and the home of Bruce and Jenny Seppi. In recent years, the current contractor has only used a large grading/graveling vehicle in this area and it is unable to make it up the steep pitch to Ms. Kurth's home. Ms. Kurth spoke to the contractor and requested that they return to using a small truck which was able to access her drive. That was not done, and Ms. Kurth has subsequently paid for plowing to access her driveway, when that should have been covered by the RRSA contract.

This past winter, the contractor proposed a solution which involved obtaining a Right-of-Way permit from the Municipality to, "Clear Alders and import gravel on E. 172nd to create a winter maintenance path." None of the homeowners in this area were notified in advance of this work, until clearing began on a Saturday. Subsequently, many, many truckloads of gravel were added to the easement with the contractor proposing

to provide access to Ms. Kurth's driveway by traveling downhill, from the steep eastern end of 172nd, rather than the shorter, but also steep, uphill, western end. While previously the steep, overgrown, uneven nature of this utility easement prevented vehicles from using it as a short cut between Belarde and Feodosia, it now looks like a useable, steep gravel road. But in the winter, this easement presents a significant safety hazard as vehicles that may attempt to navigate it, are likely to become stuck.

The RRSA Board has recognized that there is now a safety issue along the easement. Suggested solutions range from signage to a gate. The adjacent homeowners are adamantly opposed to a gate as that will create a further safety hazard: a gate that would not impede the homeowners' access to their property would have to be in the middle or bottom of a steep section of the easement meaning vehicles attempting to drive the easement could slide into the gate, causing injury to themselves or their vehicles; or they will become stuck in a manner where it will be difficult to get them out. The homeowners have requested that:

- 1) they be consulted and included in the expected site visit by the Municipal Traffic Engineer;
- 2) to prevent a safety hazard, signage be used to clearly show there is no maintained road here, rather, that 172nd curves north into Belarde and does not continue to the west there; and
- 3) to prevent a safety hazard and an impediment to the homeowners, no gate be installed at either end of the utility easement.

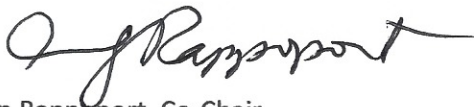
The RCCC is also concerned about the broader implications of the permit and extensive work that was completed on the 172nd easement without involvement of the affected homeowners. The RCCC appreciates and acknowledges that South Goldenview RRSA Board members have indicated this specific issue could have been handled better. Two issues remain: the specific access problem along the 172nd utility easement; and the broader issue of extensive, likely costly work – beyond routine plowing, graveling, and grading - being planned and completed without the involvement of affected neighbors. Moreover, affected homeowners familiar with road conditions may be able to suggest better alternatives.

Consequently, the RCCC passed a motion to write this letter to the Municipality and the S. Goldenview RRSA Board requesting that:

- 1) Neighbors be contacted before extensive road work is undertaken in their area; and
- 2) Signage is a better solution than a gate to prevent public access along the now significantly improved 172nd utility easement (this motion passed with 17 in favor, none opposed, and 5 abstentions).

We appreciate your attention to these concerns. The involved homeowners look forward to joining you on a site inspection.

Sincerely,



Ann Rappoport, Co-Chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council

Ky Holland, Co-Chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council

Cc: Bruce and Jenny Seppi, bseppi@alaska.net
Patricia Kurth, pdkurth@hotmail.com