

For Abbott Loop Community Council
29 May 2008

Cedar Hollow Thuja Ave , Cornerstone Church and Easement and on-going repairs at Church.

In July 2007, agreement between Cornerstone Church and ANH contractor, J. Boutet Co.(??), resulted in removal of trees and destruction of easement between Thuja Ave. and Cornerstone Church as well as expansion of Church Parking lot adjacent to easement.

By October 2007, Thuja Ave residents had requested the Community Council provide time for residents and those involved in construction access through Cornerstone Church area to resolve difficulties residents had experienced, both health and with utilities. The utility lines in the easement had been dug up during the removal of trees and growth. The removal of the trees had essentially destroyed environmentally supportive area. With respect to utility lines being cut, damaged etc. the Contractor stated..." utility lines weren't buried deep enough ". Utility companies, namely GCI and ACS could not rebury lines because of seasonal weather. Lines were 'draped' over residents fences.

The problems effecting Thuja Residents and on-going construction project in church area persisted. In November 2007 Boutet indicated he would meet with Thuja residents separately before Jan 2008 Community Council meeting. A meeting with ANH, Cornerstone Church and Thuja Ave. residents has yet to occur. Thuja Ave. residents met in Jan and Mar but no Attendees from Contractor. An attendee from Church was present at Jan meeting but not at subsequent meetings. The Community council had contacted contractor both verbally and in writing, and contractor stated no meeting could be held without approval of ANH who is primary sponsor of the project on Jamestown which resulted in permitting contractor to use Cornerstone Church area as an access for equipment.

In March contact with ACS and GCI resulted in lines still draped over fences.

In May 2008, ACS inspected lines and said GCI would still have to be involved in reburying these utility lines. It may be done by July 2008.

On weekend of May 16 2008 Cornerstone Church, without prior notification to Thuja Residents or Independence Park residents began tarring the roof, using their adjacent parking lot for equipment. The visible air pollution as well as the pervasion odor was HORRIBLE.. Thuja Ave resident contacted City of Anchorage Environment, Air Quality Office and was informed no equipment available in Anchorage to test the air quality for hazardous hydrocarbons related to large tarring operation. The Cornerstone Church personnel stated the tarring would be for at least 10 working days. It has already exceeded that time projection and is continuing. Anchorage Air Quality has assigned a case Number 78281 because of the likely violation of city code 15.20.020/8 for soot, cinders, noxious acids etc. emitted in the tarring process. Anchorage Planning and Air Quality offices are to be thanked for their timely response to a resident's concern on neighborhood air quality.

(over)

Three things are of note:

First, Cornerstone's work is of an indeterminate time period while residents of Thuja and Independence park, including children, asthmatics, and even family animal pets are exposed to this noxious potentially hazardous vapors.

Second. NO work has been done on the easement to restore a "greenbelt" area or to repair/replace fences damaged in the roughshod tree destruction. The appearance of the easement is unkempt and the larger parking lot and destruction of resident fences has ruined Thuja Ave sense of privacy. According to Cornerstone Church person..no work on easement is anticipated in the near future.

Third. Cornerstone Church, which authorized the destruction of the easement and vegetation there, has refused any discussions with Thuja Ave or Independence park residents.

The hasty approach to construction and repair reflected in the Cornerstone Church, ANH, Boutet actions has severely reduced the value of Thuja Ave residences and generally degraded the whole Cedar Hollow Neighborhood as a stable, moderate income area in Anchorage.

Because of the duration, and lack of cooperations of those involved in the construction and tarring activity, I believe that the Assembly should be briefed and also influenced to procure suitable equipment for Air Quality Testing when large on-going construction projects with potentially hazardous fumes and gases are undertaken in the city especially when such projects are in residential areas.

Rally Bastwick
349-3471
Thuja Ave Resident

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Darryl Bastwick

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