

Theresa Rice

From: Bainbridge Citizens [gary@tripp.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 11:21 AM
To: *Bainbridge Citizens
Subject: It is not Good Public Policy to alienate waterfront homeowners

Shoreline Property Owners oppose the SMP.

Everyone, particularly shoreline property owners, believes that we should protect the environment and preserve our Island's beauty for future generations. So why are the shoreline property owners opposed the draft SMP?

It is not because shoreline property owners are less concerned or less knowledgeable about environmental issues. It's because the current draft of the SMP makes waterfront homes, their yards or accessory structures, like decks and gazebos, NONCONFORMING. Every waterfront property is affected.

There is only one reason recognized by the courts to classify something as Nonconforming and that is to remove the use over time. Of course property owners would oppose having their homes and the use of their front yards classified as Nonconforming and having them ultimately removed.

The Draft also removes the water-dependant status of many of their properties and prohibits everyone on the outside of the Island from ever building a dock, even if the impacts are mitigated.

Classifying properties as NONCONFORMING does not protect the environment. It only harms property owners and their rights to use, enjoy and sell their property.

It is not good public policy to alienate a large portion of the homeowners and tax payers on the Island.

The City Council will discuss the issue of nonconforming uses at 8:30 on Wednesday Feb. 6th. Please come and speak or write to the Council.

Ask the City Council Council@bainbridgewa.gov to recognize all existing and legally constructed homes, appurtenant structures, and residential uses as CONFORMING.

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