



bob <bob@rcgold.com>  
07/19/2010 08:05 AM

To planningcommission@cob.org  
cc ckoch@cob.org  
bcc  
Subject York comments

Planning commission,  
City of Bellingham

Comments for the August 12th hearing on the York neighborhood plan.

Commissioners,

Having been involved in the York plan for some time it has become evident, to us at least, That area 9 should be left with the present density. That would allow those properties that need to be replaced be supplanted with the density levels that are appropriate to a transitional area. No large replacement has taken place from the inception of the current zoning to date. If more protection for historic structures is desired then allow business operations in said historic structures that would enhance their value even more and thus prevent their replacement. Problem solved. Area 9 contains appx. 63 properties with only 14 or 15 owner occupied, ours being one of them. To take the value from the majority of area 9 owners for "perceived" benefit of trying to turn the area into something it cannot be seems a little arbitrary and a huge injustice to those who have invested there.

Our request would be leave the density level as is, allow business in historic structure OR those rebuilt under design standards to replicate that being replaced due to fire, etc. That would preserve historic structures, maintain the character of the area AND prevent loss of value to those invested in the area while still allowing high density buildings when the economy dictates they be built.

As this hearing is not open for verbal discourse, I would ask that, if a representative from the York neighborhood is included in the discussion would you kindly consider including one person from the rental owners of area 9 to also participate as a person the commission could ask questions or glean clarification from? They are the majority stakeholders of said area.

Thank You,

Robert and Elizabeth Cunningham  
1442 Ellis St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Home 360-671-3190  
Business 360-733-5750  
Cell 360-961-8217



**Fw: York comments**  
Chris J Koch to: Heather M Aven

07/19/2010 11:08 AM

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Please forward the attached email to the Planning Commission for consideration at the August 12, 2010 Commission work session on the subject proposal.

----- Forwarded by Chris J Koch/planning/cob on 07/19/2010 11:07 AM -----

From: bob <bob@rcgold.com>  
To: planningcommission@cob.org  
Cc: ckoch@cob.org  
Date: 07/19/2010 08:06 AM  
Subject: York comments

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Planning commission,  
City of Bellingham

Comments for the August 12th hearing on the York neighborhood plan.

Commissioners,

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Thank You,

Robert and Elizabeth Cunningham  
1442 Ellis St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Home 360-671-3190  
Business 360-733-5750

July 28, 2010

RECEIVED

Planning Commission  
City of Bellingham  
210 Lottie St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225

AUG 02 2010

City of Bellingham  
Planning

Dear Planning Commission Members:

We live in what was a church before it was converted to a duplex 20 years ago. Looked at from the street, the building retains the historic character of the original. Preservation is important to us, as it is for the rest of the York Neighborhood, where neighbors voted *overwhelmingly* that the preservation of its historic character is a primary goal.

We support the York Neighborhood Association proposals to the Planning Commission, including the proposal of a rezone along Ellis street (Area 9), where the homes are a recognizably part of our historic legacy. They should not be sacrificed to create infill in a neighborhood that is *already* densely populated. The rezone of Area 9 is meant to preserve these historic houses and to discourage bulldozing. Other areas are identified within the proposal (1, 2, and 8), where infill can occur without destroying historic homes. We want a plan for growth which preserves our history and maintains the quality of life in the York Neighborhood.

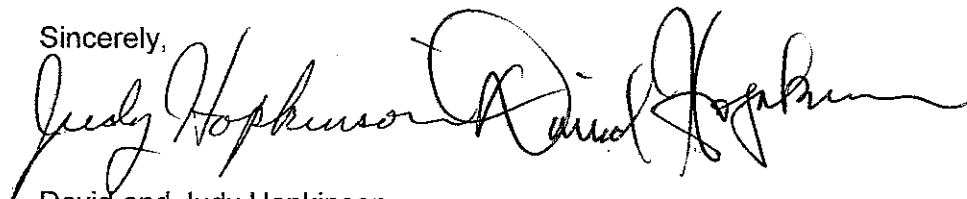
As close neighbors of the proposed rezone Area 9, we are familiar with the traffic that is forced through the alley between Franklin and Ellis. Because there is no other automobile access to buildings on Ellis in Area 9, traffic flow is awkward and parking is difficult. To build four-story apartments or office complexes on Ellis in Area 9 would be to create a daily traffic jam and make parking even more of a problem.

The proposed rezone of Area 9 is not just about historic preservation. Four-story buildings along Ellis would diminish the quality of life for all who live nearby. There would be an increase in noise and frustration in an *already* densely populated area. Buildings of four stories would block the view and not be a good fit in our neighborhood.

If preserved and maintained, the historic homes along the Ellis corridor will continue to offer a pleasant corridor into the downtown area of Bellingham. Proposed "adaptive reuse" of the historic properties in Area 9 is a way to *maintain the sense of place* which those buildings now provide. Thirty years from now, these historic buildings will prove to be more valuable and unique than they are today, while new construction of four story apartments and offices would appear to be no different than the ordinary sorts of buildings one can see in any city.

Open and democratic planning within the York Neighborhood over the past two years was carefully conducted so as to represent the will of the majority of property owners, including those along Franklin and Ellis. Because of that careful and thoughtful process, we believe that all of the proposals deserve the support of the Planning Commission – including the rezone of Area 9.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of David and Judy Hopkinson in cursive script.

David and Judy Hopkinson



Kirsti Charlton  
<kirsticharlton@gmail.com>  
07/31/2010 10:41 AM

To Planningcommission@cob.org  
cc  
bcc  
Subject In support of York Neighborhood Plan Amendments

July 30, 2010

Planning and Development Commission  
Planning and Community Development Department  
City of Bellingham  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham WA 98225

Dear Commissioners,

This is a copy of a report that I sent to my fellow MNAC members. I thought it was important and appropriate that they be kept informed of the progress of the York Neighborhood's Plan Amendment proposals based on their prior approval and support.

***Howard Steiner - Motion that Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission recommend that the Bellingham Planning Commission approve the Comprehensive Plan Amendment 09-N4 York Neighborhood Association. / Second / Motion Passed. Howard to prepare the letter and submit to the Planning Commission. Minutes,***

February 17, 2010, Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

I have also enclosed with this letter an article, including a picture, that appeared in the June 20, 2010 issue of The Seattle Times. Is this what Bellingham really wants—or needs—on Ellis Street? The York Neighborhood does not think so. MNAC does not think so.

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/realstate/2012126334\\_realneighborhood20.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/realstate/2012126334_realneighborhood20.html)

### *The York Experience*

*2007-2010*

#### *The Promise (or Premise)*

*Neighbors (residents, property owners) were invited by the Planning Department to participate in a planning process to submit neighborhood Plan Amendments, which hadn't been updated since 1982. Planning department signs were posted at strategic locations, there were notices in the neighborhood newsletter, and every property owner was sent a notice by the City of Bellingham's Planning Department about the upcoming opportunity for our neighborhood to plan its future in alignment with Planning Department guidelines.*

#### *The Process*

*So there were meetings and more meetings. All stakeholders were invited and encouraged to attend. However, with the exception of a couple of general association meetings, no non-resident property owner showed up to participate in the planning and discussion meetings. A strong and abiding sense of community and purpose, not only*

*for the York Neighborhood, but also for the City of Bellingham, developed among the folks who attended these meetings.*

### ***The Plan***

*We planned for the future, for our kids and grandkids, for current and incoming Bellingham residents. Participants in the process dreamed of park space, of green ways, of appropriate infill, and of historical preservation along Ellis Street, Area 9. Our amendments and rezones comprehensively added hundreds more potential dwelling units and considerable additional commercial space. Although the neighborhood's Area 9 proposal decreases potential residential units, any units lost are more than compensated for in proposals for infill in Areas 1, 2, and 8—and current historical housing stock would be preserved.*

*The York board and the general membership overwhelmingly approved the plan. Note: Any resident or property owner of York is de facto a member of the general association. Meetings are public and publicly announced. The plan was submitted to MNAC, and MNAC recommended approval of the proposal to the Planning Commission.*

### ***The Problem***

*So what happened? When the plan amendments were presented to the Planning Commission, after being recommended for approval by MNAC, non-resident property owners came to the Planning Commission meeting to object to what amounts to historic preservation of buildings along Ellis Street, many of them built c. 1900. Non-resident property owners stated that their real estate investments (speculation) would be ruined if Area 9 were not allowed to “develop”, i.e. scrape and raze the buildings, combine lots, and build four-storey office and apartment buildings. These multi-storey buildings would be across the street from single-family Sehome neighborhood, St. Joe's south campus, and residences on the west side of Ellis street. No curb cuts are allowed and entry would be through the narrow single-car width alley between Ellis and Franklin Streets.*

*The non-resident property owners spoke of urban growth management and the need for more multi-residential buildings and development within the City. The Planning Department is also concerned with infill and GMA, as is the YNA, which put forth a comprehensive plan that is consistent with the GMA. York is one of the densest neighborhoods in the city, and includes Lincoln Square, a nursing home, several psychiatric resident facilities, a drug and alcohol community counseling center, a residential prison re-entry housing facility, and a department of corrections facility. A recent survey of the York Neighborhood shows that, even in Area 5, now zoned single family residential, there are (too) numerous examples of illegal duplexes, triplexes, rooming houses, and ADU's, showing that York already (overly) contributes to infill.*

*Non-resident property owners on Ellis Street (less than 20% of the Ellis Street property owners) objected to the York proposal that allowed and encouraged the shop-house model, i.e. certain commercial and business operations on the ground floor with residential above, in existing buildings. Nearly 80% of resident property owners supported the plan. The neighborhood plan included adaptations of the Infill Toolkit, such as ADU's and duplexes, which would keep the historical stock intact. Since the proposal includes keeping existing buildings, it is also "green" and sustainable. The proposal is in alignment with recent State of Washington studies, which indicate that preserving historic buildings provides economic value to a city, as well, of course as providing for development of community.*

*During the Planning Commission meeting, there was a public comment (by a Planning Commissioner) that the York Neighborhood Association had engaged in "bullying". Although the Neighborhood has tried repeatedly to find out more about this accusation, no sources or examples have been forthcoming. This unfortunate comment has the potential of tainting the public's perception that the YNA did not conduct a fair, open and democratic process.*

*The YNA recommended that the Planning Department host a subsequent meeting of stakeholders in an attempt to come up with a compromise, regarding Area 9, Ellis Street. Selected representatives from the neighborhood, resident property owners and non-resident property owners were invited to attend, to see if a common ground for the*

*east side of Ellis Street could be obtained. (Other, uninvited persons attended—a non-resident, non-property owner and non-resident property owners.) The neighborhood had some points on which they felt compromise could be made (such as changing the square footage from 3000 feet to 2000 feet, instead of 1000 feet, and the possible allowance of duplexes). However, many neighborhood attendees felt the discussion was one-sided, that attempts at civil discourse were overridden. Not surprisingly, no compromise was reached. The Planning Department therefore recommended that Area 9 be taken out of the York Neighborhood Plan Amendments, although a majority of Ellis Street property owners support the neighborhood's plan.*

*The neighborhood is pleased that the Planning Department supports the other proposed concepts of our plan, such as green ways, park space, open space, and appropriate infill in other parts of the neighborhood.*

### ***The Possibilities***

*Thousands of hours by neighborhood representatives were spent on the promise/premise that the neighborhood could plan for its future, one that would impact and contribute not only to the neighborhood but also to a sense of history and economic development within the City of Bellingham and the State of Washington. The process was open and public. And, we came up with a public, green, sustainable, historic and infill-sensitive proposal. We intend to continue working to convince the Planning Commission and the City Council that this plan, including Area 9, is in the best interests of everyone, our grandkids, our community, small businesses, and the City's growth management goals. Thank you, MNAC, for supporting our dreams.*

Sincerely,

Kirsti Charlton

Thirty-one (31) year resident of York Neighborhood

Forty-one year (41) resident of Bellingham

MNAC – York Neighborhood Representative

Vice President, York Neighborhood Association

July 31<sup>st</sup> 2010

Planning Commission  
City of Bellingham  
210 Lottie St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Planning Commission Members:

My name is Michael Shepard and I am an active member of my York Neighborhood Association. I wanted take a moment to let you know why I support our Neighborhood's proposed rezone application. As a property owner and resident of the York Neighborhood, I am in support of the York Neighborhood Association's proposal for a rezone of Area 9 (Ellis Street) to the density of 3,000 sq. ft. per unit. This reduction in density, from the current 1,000 sq. ft. per unit, is intended to help preserve the historic housing stock on Ellis Street and prevent future bulldozing of this section of the neighborhood to be replaced with four-story apartment or office complexes.

I urge the Planning Commission to support the YNA's Area 9 rezone proposal because it: (a) is consistent with Washington State's support of historic preservation and creation of historic districts; (b) is consistent with the State's Growth Management Act, which encourages the preservation of existing housing stock; and (c) is consistent with the City of Bellingham's Comprehensive Plan, which encourages revitalization of historically and architecturally significant homes in deteriorated condition.

I greatly value my historic home and have worked hard to preserve it and contribute to Bellingham's historical legacy. Area 9, Ellis Street, is part of this historic legacy and is part of the historic York District. The YNA has identified other areas within the neighborhood for multi-family infill potential where historic housing will not be removed: Area 1 along Meador Avenue, Area 2 adjacent to the Central Business District, and Area 8, the Samish Way Urban Village. These sections of the neighborhood are appropriate for infill housing development. Infill should be achieved without bulldozing already existing historic homes.

I also do not consider Area 9 a good location for four-story apartment or office complexes. The only vehicle access would be through the alley that runs between Ellis and Franklin Streets; an alley that is busy, presently, and has numerous parking problems. Four-story buildings would overshadow our homes, block views, increase noise in an already noisy and densely populated section of the neighborhood and would decrease historic integrity and property values.

The YNA's Area 9 rezone proposal also includes a change to allow selected commercial uses (as specified by the YNA's list of allowed commercial uses) if an historic structure is used for a new commercial purpose, along with design standards to ensure compatibility with our historic character. This kind of adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of historic buildings is a concept that I hope the Planning Commission will support. The rezone proposal does not change the current multi-family or office use.

The YNA's efforts over the past two and half years have been inclusive and public, providing many opportunities for everyone to have a voice and vote in planning for our future. I believe the proposals represent the majority of property owners on Ellis Street, Franklin Street and within the York neighborhood as a whole. I urge you to support it, as well.

Sincerely,

Michael Shepard



"Jon McGrath"  
<jon@mcgrathhome.com>  
07/31/2010 11:01 AM

To <planningcommission@cob.org>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject FW: [YNA List] Urgent: York Neighborhood Information

Dear Planning Commission,

Attached is a "sample letter" currently being circulated by Anne Mackie which she is asking for support of the York Neighborhood Plan. I am NOT in favor of the proposal. I am a York resident, small business owner and responsible landlord. I live at 1430 N. Garden Street with my wife, daughter and child on the way. I appreciate the historic character of our neighborhood but feel strongly that preservation of historic character should never come at the expense of property rights. I'm particularly disturbed by attempts to downzone specific areas in our neighborhood. In my view, property owners who purchased land with the assumption that they would be able to develop it, should not later be restricted from doing so due to a downzone which favors only particular neighborhood residents. I understand that Anne Mackie holds a lot of sway in this community, but I don't believe I stand alone in opposition. Others have spoken up at YNA association meetings against these proposals, and I hope you hear from them as well. I support the Planning Departments efforts for creative ways of creating density in neighborhoods. I believe in developing up and not out. I believe in creating better and more efficient ways of getting people into and around cities and finding workable parking solutions and transportation solutions that allow for greater density.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jon McGrath  
(360) 303-8099

**From:** ynalist-bounces@yorkneighborhood.org [mailto:ynalist-bounces@yorkneighborhood.org] **On Behalf Of** Anne Mackie  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 31, 2010 10:24 AM  
**To:** ynalist@yorkneighborhood.org  
**Subject:** [YNA List] Urgent: York Neighborhood Information  
**Importance:** High

Dear York Neighbors,

I want to update you on the status of the York Neighborhood Plan amendments that we've been working on for two and half years. It has been a complicated process; and now, as we come into the final stretch, we need to rally your support. Please excuse this lengthy email, but some detail is needed to explain the issues at hand and to ask for your support in writing a letter to the Bellingham Planning Commission.

On August 12 the final recommendations from the Planning Department will be reviewed and voted on by the Planning Commission. This will be a public meeting, but no public "comment" is allowed; however, **written comments can be submitted to the Commission and should be submitted no later than August 10, earlier if possible!** After this meeting, the proposals go forward to the City Council for their

decision later this year (I will keep you informed when that date is set).

The YNA Board met July 20th to discuss the final report from the Planning Department. We are disappointed that the Planning Department is not in support of the YNA's proposal for a rezone of Area 9 (Ellis Street). We are hopeful that the Planning Commission will support our proposal, however; and toward that end, the Board directed me to ask you to write letters in support of the rezone proposal.

Attached is a "sample" letter that outlines the issues and reasons for our proposed rezone. Using this sample, you can craft your own letter with your own signature and date. Letters should be mailed to the Planning Commission, 210 Lottie St, Bellingham 98225; or emailed to [planningcommission@cob.org](mailto:planningcommission@cob.org) no later than August 10, although I encourage you to get them in this week.

For a full review of the Planning Department's proposals here is the link to the City's website:  
<http://www.cob.org/documents/planning/neighborhoods/2010-docket-materials/york-worksession-staff-report.pdf>

As explained before in numerous meetings, newsletters, and letters to York residents the current density zoning of Area 9 (Ellis Street) promotes further deterioration of these homes for the purpose of development speculation with the goal of combining the lots, bulldozing the historic homes, and building four-story office and apartment buildings. The YNA rezone proposal is based on the belief that Ellis Street is the wrong location for four-story office and apartment complexes. YNA's amendment changes the per unit density from 1,000 sq. ft to 3,000 sq.ft, but retains the current multi-family use and office use, and would allow for commercial use if the historic structure is used for the business. Our proposal supports historic preservation, adaptive reuse, and adds value to these properties.

Large office and apartment complexes along Ellis Street would have a tremendous negative impact to homes on Franklin Street, which share the narrow single-car alley. Four-story buildings would overshadow the homes on Ellis and Franklin and block views. The end result would be to decrease the property values for the majority of home owners on Ellis and Franklin streets.

The YNA proposed rezone of Ellis Street was developed through a democratic, public, inclusive process of neighborhood surveys, meetings and voting; and it supports the goal of historic preservation, which was identified as a top goal of the neighborhood. However, because we also support reduction of urban sprawl, we incorporated proposals for new multi-family infill in Areas 1, 2, and 8. **The YNA's proposals strike a balance between historic preservation and urban infill.**

On other Plan Amendment proposals that the YNA submitted, I am pleased to report that the Planning Department supports (1) the future acquisition by the City of land along Whatcom Creek to create a park and open space, at which time ownership of the properties change; and (2) to work toward protecting the Franklin Park western wooded hillside and the trail berm in the middle of 1200 block of Franklin through a possible "street vacation" action in the future. (3) The plan amendments also support a safety/noise wall from Lakeway Drive south to Abbott Street.

To conclude, I want to urge you to participate -- once again -- in this public process by submitting your letters to the Planning Commission by August 10. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these matters, please contact me either through email or call me at home, 933-4369.

On behalf of the YNA Board,

Anne Mackie  
President  
York Neighborhood Association

DATE

Planning Commission  
City of Bellingham  
210 Lottie St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Planning Commission Members:

As a property owner and resident of the York Neighborhood, I am in support of the York Neighborhood Association's proposal for a rezone of Area 9 (Ellis Street) to the density of 3,000 sq. ft. per unit. This reduction in density, from the current 1,000 sq. ft. per unit, is intended to help preserve the historic housing stock on Ellis Street and prevent future bulldozing of this section of the neighborhood to be replaced with four-story apartment or office complexes.

I urge the Planning Commission to support the YNA's Area 9 rezone proposal because it: (a) is consistent with Washington State's support of historic preservation and creation of historic districts; (b) is consistent with the State's Growth Management Act, which encourages the preservation of existing housing stock; and (c) is consistent with the City of Bellingham's Comprehensive Plan, which encourages revitalization of historically and architecturally significant homes in deteriorated condition.

I greatly value my historic home and have worked hard to preserve it and contribute to Bellingham's historical legacy. Area 9, Ellis Street, is part of this historic legacy and is part of the historic York District. The YNA has identified other areas within the neighborhood for multi-family infill potential where historic housing will not be removed: Area 1 along Meador Avenue, Area 2 adjacent to the Central Business District, and Area 8, the Samish Way Urban Village. These sections of the neighborhood are appropriate for infill housing development. Infill should be achieved without bulldozing already existing historic homes.

**Comment [PC1]:** I would leave this out as it neither abuts or is adjacent, I think it would raise doubts in the reader's mind.

I also do not consider Area 9 a good location for four-story apartment or office complexes. The only vehicle access would be through the alley that runs between Ellis and Franklin Streets; an alley that is busy, presently, and has numerous parking problems. Four-story buildings would overshadow our homes, block views, increase noise in an already noisy and densely populated section of the neighborhood and would decrease historic integrity and property values.

The YNA's Area 9 rezone proposal also includes a change to allow selected commercial uses (as specified by the YNA's list of allowed commercial uses) if an historic structure is used for a new commercial purpose, along with design standards to ensure compatibility with our historic character. This kind of adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of historic buildings is a concept that I hope the Planning Commission will support. The rezone proposal does not change the current multi-family or office use.

The YNA's efforts over the past two and half years have been inclusive and public, providing many opportunities for everyone to have a voice and vote in planning for our future. I believe the proposals represent the majority of property owners on Ellis Street, Franklin Street and within the York neighborhood as a whole. I urge you to support it, as well.

Sincerely,

DATE

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City of Bellingham  
210 Lottie St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225

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Sincerely,

*Amy Armitage*  
*resident, York neighborhood (home owner)*  
*armitageamy@comcast.net*

DATE

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City of Bellingham  
210 Lottie St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225

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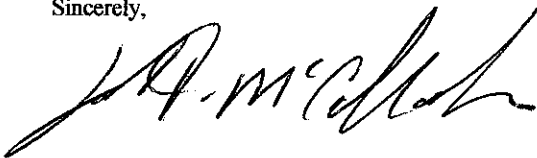
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Sincerely,





Lesley Keenholts  
<leslieljk@msn.com>  
08/03/2010 09:50 PM

To [planningcommission@cob.org](mailto:planningcommission@cob.org)  
cc Lesley Keenholts <leslieljk@msn.com>  
bcc  
Subject York Neighborhood rezone

Dear Planning commission members,

I am contacting you to show my support for the York Neighborhood Area 9 rezone that is coming up soon for your consideration.

This is the finale of a long process of neighborhood meetings, planning, negotiating and surveying to determine the direction to take to best preserve the character of our historic neighborhood for the enjoyment of future generations. The majority has spoken, their ideas are what has produced this neighborhood rezone in area 9.

Many of the York neighbors believe that preservation of the historic homes in area 9 is important, as once these historic homes are destroyed to make way for apartments and high rises

they can never be replaced, and we will have lost some of our history and historic flavor in the process.

Those opposed to the rezone are a small number of people who appear to be trying to protect their financial interests-they just want to make a buck.

Sometimes we just have to look at the greater good and just not our pocket books. I understand that they view their properties as financial investments, but there is really so much more to saving this historic housing stock that is priceless.

I have lived in the York Neighborhood for almost 30 years, and I am saddened at the prospect of losing the character and sense of history that is so special in neighborhood such as York.

You have to make a hard decision, I'm encouraging you to respect the wishes of the majority of York neighbors and approve the area 9 rezone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Keenholts  
1321 Humboldt St.



Anne Mackie  
<mackieaf@gmail.com>  
08/03/2010 11:29 AM

To <planningcommission@cob.org>  
cc <CKoch@cob.org>  
bcc  
Subject York Plan Amendment Letter RE. Sidewalks & Curbs

August 3, 2010

Planning Commission  
City of Bellingham  
210 Lottie St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: York Neighborhood Plan Amendment YTI-6

Dear Planning Commission Members:

I recommend deletion of the second sentence from YTI-6, page 2-6, in the York Plan Amendments as presented by the Planning Department, which states: "Encourage the construction of sidewalks and curbs on blocks where there are none to facilitate pedestrian safety. **Neighborhood Local Improvement Districts (LID) may be necessary to fund these improvements.**" I recommend that the second sentence (highlighted) be deleted for the following reasons:

1. Identifying Local Improvement Districts as the funding mechanism for sidewalk and curb installations is not included in other neighborhood plans and should be omitted from the York Plan so that it is consistent with other neighborhoods. It was pointed out by Commissioner Matsumoto at the May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Public Hearing that other neighborhood plans do not specify LID's as the funding mechanism for these kinds of improvements; to include this language in York's Plan seems unreasonable.
2. At the May 27<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission hearing, several Commissioners agreed that the reference to LID should be deleted.
3. While City funds may not *currently* exist to pay for sidewalks at this time, funds may become available in the future.
4. York is an historic neighborhood that was "built out" by the 1920s. It is not like a new development neighborhood in which LID funding is appropriate.
5. The installation of sidewalks and curbs is a carryover item from the original 1982 York Neighborhood Plan – carried over because many streets remain without sidewalks or curbs. Sidewalks are an important amenity that encourages safe pedestrian access and walkable

neighborhoods. These are goals that the City has voiced support for.

6. Many of the streets in York are narrow and were designed before the automobile culture became prevalent. An example of a safety problem created by the lack of sidewalks is in the 500 block of York Street, which is on a WTA bus route and is a narrow roadway with no sidewalks.

While the City's current ability to fund sidewalks and curbs is hampered due to the current economic downturn and reduced City funding, in the future the City may be able to fund these needed improvements in our older historic neighborhoods. The York Plan language should keep this option open.

Sincerely,

Anne Mackie

President, York Neighborhood Association

1351 Humboldt St.

Bellingham, WA 98225