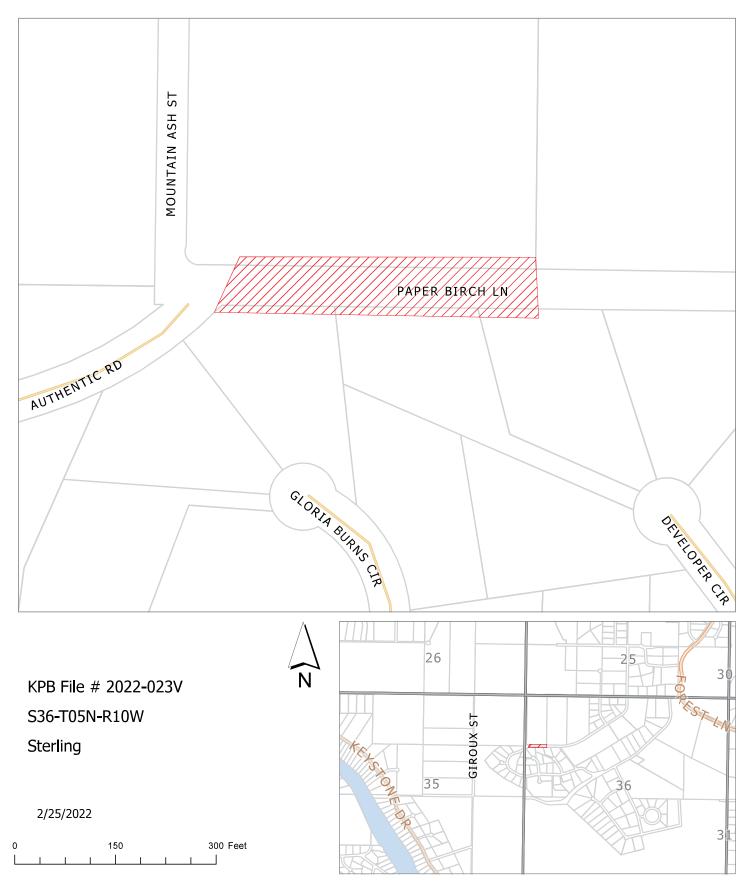
E. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM E3 - RIGHT OF WAY VACATION VACATE A PORTION OF PAPER BIRCH LANE AND ASSOCIATED UTILITY EASEMENTS



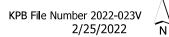
Vicinity Map

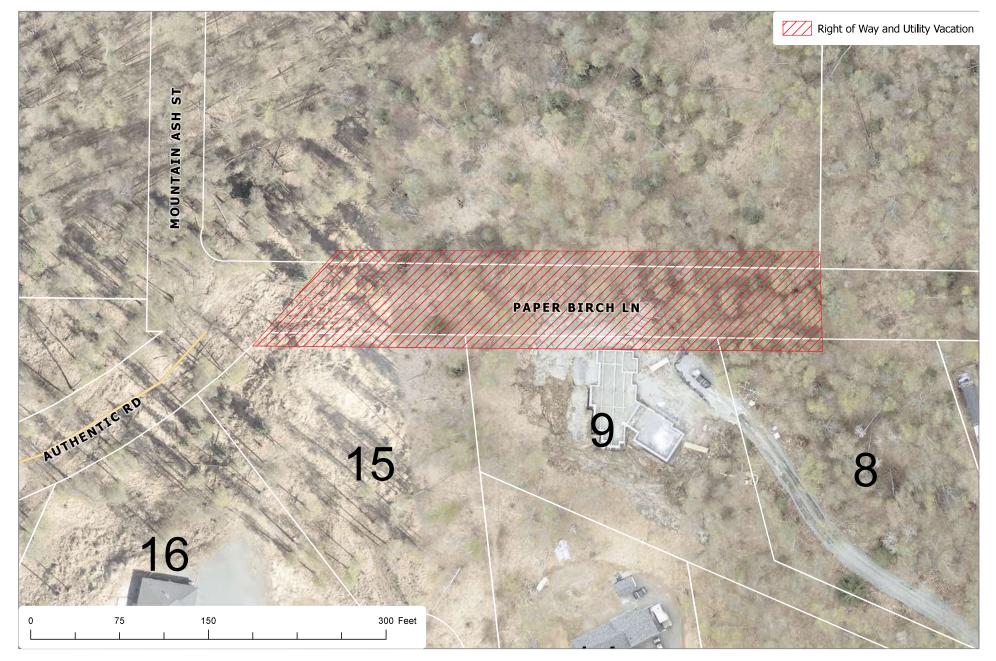


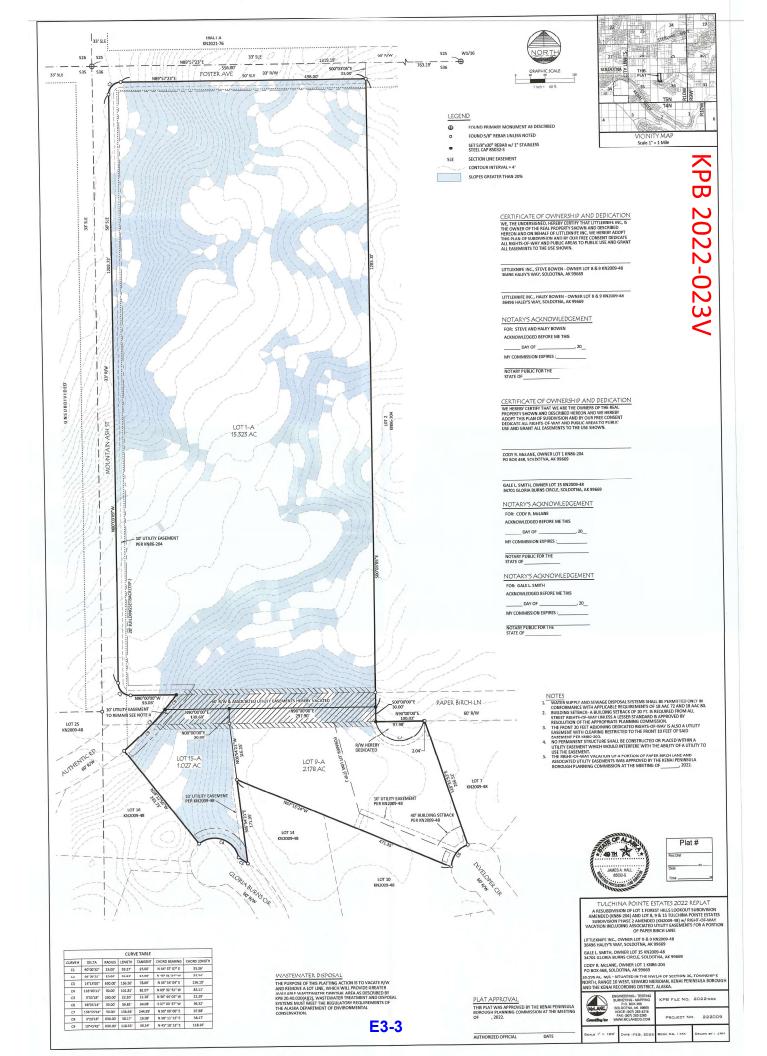
The information depicted hereon is for a graphical representation only of best available sources. The Kenai Peninsula Borough assumes no responsibility for any errors on this map.











AGENDA ITEM E. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 3 - RIGHT OF WAY VACATION VACATE A PORTION OF PAPER BIRCH LANE AND ASSOCIATED UTILITY EASEMENTS

KPB File No.	2022-023V
Planning Commission Meeting:	March 21, 2022
Applicant / Owner:	Cody McLane, Gale Smith, Littleknife Inc., all of Soldotna, Alaska
Surveyor:	James Hall / McLane Consulting Inc.
General Location:	Sterling area, Paper Birch Lane, Mountain Ash Street
Legal Description:	Lot 1 Forest Hills Lookout Subdivision, Plat KN 86-204, and Lots 8, 9, and
	15 of Tulchina Pointe Estates Phase 2, Plat KN 2009-48.

STAFF REPORT

<u>Specific Request / Purpose as stated in the petition:</u> Right of way vacation of Paper Birch Lane from Authentic Road to the easterly property line of Lot 1 (KN 86-204). Current right-of-way width is 60 feet over very difficult terrain with steep slopes.

Proposed vacation is approximately .591 acres.

Lot 1 (KN 86-204) is in the process of being subdivided and has preliminary approval by the Kenai Peninsula Borough on 11/12/2019 with vacation approval of Mountain Ash Street and section line easements on 10/28/2019 under KPB File No. 2019-117. This plat is in the process of being finalized and will dedicate alternate access that can be connected to in the future subdivision of Lot 2 (KN 86-204).

At this time, a cul-de-sac is proposed at the end of Paper Birch Lane to accommodate a proper turn-around area for traffic.

Reasoning: A new structure on Lot 9 (KN 2009-48) has been constructed over the R/W line of Paper Birch Lane. By re-platting this area and vacating Paper Birch Lane, the property is free of encroachments and allows additional acreage for wastewater treatment systems.

Lot 15 (KN 2009-48) is also encumbered by steep slopes and minimal useable area for construction and would benefit by the additional acreage provided by the R/W vacation.

Notification: Public notice appeared in the March 10, 2022 issue of the Peninsula Clarion as a separate ad. The public hearing notice was published in the March 17, 2022 issue of the Peninsula Clarion as part of the Commission's tentative agenda.

The public notice was posted on the Planning Commission bulletin board at the Kenai Peninsula Borough George A. Navarre Administration building. Additional notices were mailed to the following with the request to be posted for public viewing.

Library of Soldotna

Post Office of Soldotna

Twenty-seven certified mailings were sent to owners of property within 300 feet of the proposed vacation. Fourteen receipts had been returned when the staff report was prepared.

Public hearing notices were sent by regular mail to sixteen owners within 600 feet of the proposed vacation.

Seventeen public hearing notices were emailed to agencies and interested parties as shown below;

E3-4

State of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game State of Alaska DNR State of Alaska DOT State of Alaska DNR Forestry Central Emergency Services Alaska Communication Systems (ACS) ENSTAR Natural Gas General Communications Inc, (GCI) Homer Electric Association (HEA)

Legal Access (existing and proposed): Paper Birch Lane is a 60 foot wide right of way located in the Sterling Area. Paper Birch Lane is approximately 3,100 feet long with several intersections that break the road into segments. The proposal will vacate the western segment and the remainder of the right of way will remain. The road is located off Forest Lane, a state maintained right of way that runs south of the Sterling Highway near mile 90.

To access the portion being discussed there are multiple routes dedicated but not all are fully constructed. Foster Avenue, Moran Street, Authentic Road, and Quillback Drive intersect Paper Birch Lane. Foster Avenue and Moran Street are constructed and maintained by the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Authentic Road is constructed and connects to Diamond Willow Lane. Both are constructed and maintained by the Borough. Diamond Willow Lane connects back to Foster Avenue near the Forest Lane intersection. Quillback Drive is only a half width right of way that is not constructed.

Portions of Paper Birch Lane appear to be cleared and used for access. The Kenai Peninsula Borough does not maintain any portions of Paper Birch Lane. The areas cleared are northeast of the Quillback Drive intersection and are accessed via Moran Street and Foster Avenue.

The petition is to vacate approximately 428 feet of the western portion of Paper Birch Lane. Preliminary plat Forest Hills Lookout Bolder Heights Addition, KPB File 2019-117, is located to the north of the proposed vacation. That plat and the associated vacations have been approved. The plat, once recorded, will vacate a portion of Mountain Ash Street, a portion of Foster Avenue, and will provide a new right of way that continues Authentic Road to the north and provides a connection to Foster Avenue. A new right of way will be dedicated that provides access to the large acreage tract to the east. The owners are working to vacate some section line easements and the Planning Commission granted four year approvals to allow the vacations and plat to be recorded together.

A partial bulb is proposed to be dedicated to provide an adequate turn around area for Paper Birch Lane. The 15 acre lot to the north will continue to have access to Paper Birch Lane and by Foster Avenue to the north. Once the plat to the west is finalized, the parcel will also have access from the new dedications. If the 15 acre parcel to the north is ever subdivided, it will have multiple access routes to provide access and possible connections to internal right of ways.

Lot 15 has access from Authentic Road and Gloria Burns Circle. Lots 8 and 9 have constructed access on Developer Circle.

Paper Birch Lane, Quillback Drive, and Authentic Road provide a closed block. The length around Authentic Road is not compliant. Multiple right of ways are off Authentic Road but they are cul-de-sacs and do not improve the block. The proposed vacation and new dedications to the north will not improve the block and the block will be slightly longer. The reason for the placement for the new right of ways in the proposed subdivision to the north is due to terrain. The sketch provided shows the steep terrain within the Paper Birch Lane Dedication. An exception to KPB 20.30.170, block lengths, will need to be requested when the plat is submitted for review.

The Roads Department originally provided a review of "no comment". Staff reached out to the Roads Department due to calls received by concerned landowners. The Roads Department changed their comment to "We oppose the vacation because it will reduce/prevent access to other parcel." The comment received was forwarded to the owner and surveyor and they were advised to begin having conversations with the Roads Department on methods to resolve the issue. The surveyor submitted to the Roads Department an explanation that a portion proposed for vacation does not meet RSA standards. Plans were submitted for the subdivision to the north to support their stance. The Roads Department reviewed the submitted items and changed their comment. "RSA will support the

vacation actions with the knowledge that parcel access will be improved with the next phase of subdivision." The emails and documents have been included in the packet.

KPB Roads Dept. comments	Out of Jurisdiction: No Roads Director: Uhlin, Dil Comments: RSA will support the vacation actions with the knowledge that parcel access will be improved with the next phase of subdivision.
SOA DOT comments	No comment

<u>Site Investigation</u>: The dedicated right of way contains steep slopes through the majority of the portion petitioned for vacation. There does not appear to be any lot wet areas within the dedication.

Quillback Drive, Paper Birch Lane and its intersections with Foster Avenue and Moran Street appear to be free from low wet areas. Steep slopes do not appear to be present within the right of ways. The slopes within Quillback Drive are approximately 9 percent.

KPB River Center review	A. Floodplain	
	Reviewer: Carver, Nancy	
	Floodplain Status: Not within flood hazard area	
	Comments: No comments	
	B. Habitat Protection	
	Reviewer: Aldridge, Morgan	
	Habitat Protection District Status: Is NOT within HPD	
	Comments: No comments	
	C. State Parks	
	Reviewer: Russell, Pam	
	Comments: No Comments	

<u>Staff Analysis:</u> Forest Hills Lookout Subdivision, Plat KN 86-204, dedicated the right of way being discussed. It was named Walker Street when dedicated. Resolution SN 2015-09 changed the street name. The parent subdivision created larger acreage lots. Many have been subdivided through the years and provide the current configuration of the area.

The lot to the northwest has received preliminary approval to vacate multiple right of ways and easements to allow for dedications that work with the terrain in the area. The ability for Paper Birch Lane to provide a better connection to another right of way may be obtained in the future if Lot 2, located to the northeast, is ever subdivided.

The owner of Lots 8 and 9 is LittleKnife Inc. The owner is a construction company that recently built a home on the lots for a client. It was determined that the house was constructed partially within the right of way. An as-built was not provided with the application but a sketch was previously received. The sketch shows the house within the right of way but no dimensions were provided.

A bulb is proposed to provide an adequate turnaround area.

The petition is proposing to vacate the associated utility easements along the portion of Paper Birch Lane to be vacated. 10 foot utility easements will be placed along Authentic Road, Paper Birch Lane straight away and bulb.

At the time the staff report was prepared no written comments have been received from the public. Staff has had several phone calls and in person contact with members of the public with concerns about the vacation. Staff answered questions asked and advised that comments be submitted or attend the meeting to provide testimony to the Planning Commission.

20.65.050 – Action on vacation application

- D. The planning commission shall consider the merits of each vacation request and in all cases the planning commission shall deem the area being vacated to be of value to the public. It shall be incumbent upon the applicant to show that the area proposed for vacation is no longer practical for the uses or purposes authorized, or that other provisions have been made which are more beneficial to the public. In evaluating the merits of the proposed vacation, the planning commission shall consider whether:
 - 1. The right-of-way or public easement to be vacated is being used; **Staff comments:** This portion is not constructed and no comments were received of other uses.
 - A road is impossible or impractical to construct, and alternative access has been provided; Staff comments: The intersection with Authentic Road will be difficult due to the terrain. New right of ways are proposed to the north that used terrain to help determine locations. The lots along this portion to be vacated all have access from other right of ways.
 - The surrounding area is fully developed and all planned or needed rights-of-way and utilities are constructed;
 Staff comments: No lots will be denied access to utility easements.
 - The vacation of a public right-of-way provides access to a lake, river, or other area with public interest or value, and if so, whether equal or superior access is provided;
 Staff comments: Does not provide access to public lands or waters.
 - 5 The proposed vacation would limit opportunities for interconnectivity with adjacent parcels, whether developed or undeveloped;

Staff comments: This will make the block no longer close. The ability to construct a closed block in this location will be difficult. No lots will be denied access.

- Other public access, other than general road use, exist or are feasible for the right-of-way; Staff comments: The steep terrain may make pedestrian use difficult but could still be feasible. Other dedicated right of ways provide adequate access.
- 7. All existing and future utility requirements are met. Rights-of-way which are utilized by a utility, or which logically would be required by a utility, shall not be vacated, unless it can be demonstrated that equal or superior access is or will be available. Where an easement would satisfactorily serve the utility interests, and no other public need for the right-of-way exists, the commission may approve the vacation and require that a utility easement be granted in place of the right-of-way.

Staff comments: Requests by utility providers will be reviewed and the surveyor/owner must work with utility providers to ensure all needed easements are provided. The proposed plat will grant easements along dedicated right of ways.

8. Any other factors that are relevant to the vacation application or the area proposed to be vacated. **Staff comments:** There is a structure within the right of way.

A KPB Planning Commission decision denying a vacation application is final. A KPB Planning Commission decision to approve the vacation application is subject to consent or veto by the KPB Assembly, or City Council if located within City boundaries. The KPB Assembly or City Council must hear the vacation within thirty days of the Planning Commission decision.

If approved, the Assembly will hear the vacation at their April 5, 2022 or April 19, 2022 meeting. Meeting date may be verified by contacting the Clerk's office.

If approved, Tulchina Pointe Estates 2022 Replat will finalize the proposed right of way vacations. Once a complete application for the preliminary plat is received, it will be scheduled for review by the Plat Committee

KPB department / agency review:

Planner	
Code Compliance	Reviewer: Ogren, Eric
	Comments: No comments
Addressing	Reviewer: Haws, Derek
	Affected Addresses:
	34426 DEVELOPER CIR
	41258 AUTHENTIC RD
	Existing Street Names are Correct: Yes
	List of Correct Street Names:
	FOSTER AVE
	MOUNTAIN ASH ST
	PAPER BIRCH LN
	DEVELOPER CIR
	GLORIA BURNS CIR
	AUTHENITC RD
	Existing Street Name Corrections Needed:
	All New Street Names are Approved: No
	List of Approved Street Names:
	List of Street Names Denied:
	Comments:
	34426 DEVELOPER CIR WILL REMAIN WITH LOT 9-A
	41258 AUTHENTIC RD WILL REMAIN WITH LOT 1-A
Assessing	Reviewer: Wilcox, Adeena
	Comments: No comment

Utility provider review:

HEA	
ENSTAR	No comment
ACS	No objections
GCI	No conflicts

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on consideration of the merits as per KPB 20.65.050(D) as outlined by Staff comments, Staff recommends <u>APPROVAL</u> as petitioned, subject to:

- 1. Consent by KPB Assembly.
- 2. Compliance with the requirements for preliminary plats per Chapter 20 of the KPB Code.
- 3. Grant utility easements requested by the utility providers.
- 4. Submittal of a final plat within a timeframe such that the plat can be recorded within one year of vacation consent (KPB 20.70.130).

KPB 20.65.050 – Action on vacation application

H. A planning commission decision to approve a vacation is not effective without the consent of the city council, if the vacated area to be vacated is within a city, or by the assembly in all other cases. The

council or assembly shall have 30 days from the date of the planning commission approval to either consent to or veto the vacation. Notice of veto of the vacation shall be immediately given to the planning commission. Failure to act on the vacation within 30 days shall be considered to be consent to the vacation. This provision does not apply to alterations of utility easements under KPB 20.65.070 which do not require the consent of the assembly or city council unless city code specifically provides otherwise.

- I. Upon approval of the vacation request by the planning commission and no veto by the city council or assembly, where applicable, the applicant shall have a surveyor prepare and submit a plat including the entire area approved for vacation in conformance with KPB 20.10.080. Only the area approved for vacation by the assembly or council may be included on the plat. The final plat must be recorded within one year of the vacation consent.
- J. A planning commission decision denying a vacation application is final. No reapplication or petition concerning the same vacation may be filed within one calendar year of the date of the final denial action except in the case where new evidence or circumstances exist that were not available or present when the original petition was filed.
- K. An appeal of the planning commission, city council or assembly vacation action under this chapter must be filed in the superior court in accordance with the Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure.

The 2019 Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan adopted November 2019 by Ordinance No. 2019-25. The relevant objectives are listed.

Goal 3. Preserve and improve quality of life on the Kenai Peninsula Borough through increased access to local and regional facilities, activities, programs and services.

- Focus Area: Energy and Utilities
 - Objective A Encourage coordination or residential, commercial, and industrial development with extension of utilities and other infrastructure.
 - Strategy 1. Near Term: Maintain existing easements (especially section line easements) in addition to establishing adequate utility rights of way or easements to serve existing and future utility needs.
 - Strategy 2. Near Term: Maintain regular contact with utility operators to coordinate and review utility easement requests that are part of subdivision plat approval.
 - Strategy 3. Near Term: Identify potential utility routes on Borough lands.
- Housing
 - Objective D. Encourage efficient use of land, infrastructure and services outside incorporated cities by prioritizing future growth in the most suitable areas.
 - Strategy 1. Near Term: Collaborate with the AK Department of Transportation, incorporated cities within the borough, utility providers, other agencies overseeing local services, and existing communities located adjacent to the undeveloped areas that are appropriate for future growth, to align plans for future expansion of services to serve future residential development and manage growth.

Goal 4. Improve access to, from and connectivity within the Kenai Peninsula Borough

- Focus Area: Transportation
 - Objective B. Ensure new roads are developed in alignment with existing and planned growth and development.
 - Strategy 2. Near Term: Establish subdivision codes that dictate road construction standards to accommodate future interconnectivity and/or public safety.
 - Strategy 3. Near Term: Identify areas of anticipated growth to determine future access needs.

END OF STAFF REPORT

Aerial with 5-foot Contours

KPB File Number 2022-023V

3/9/2022

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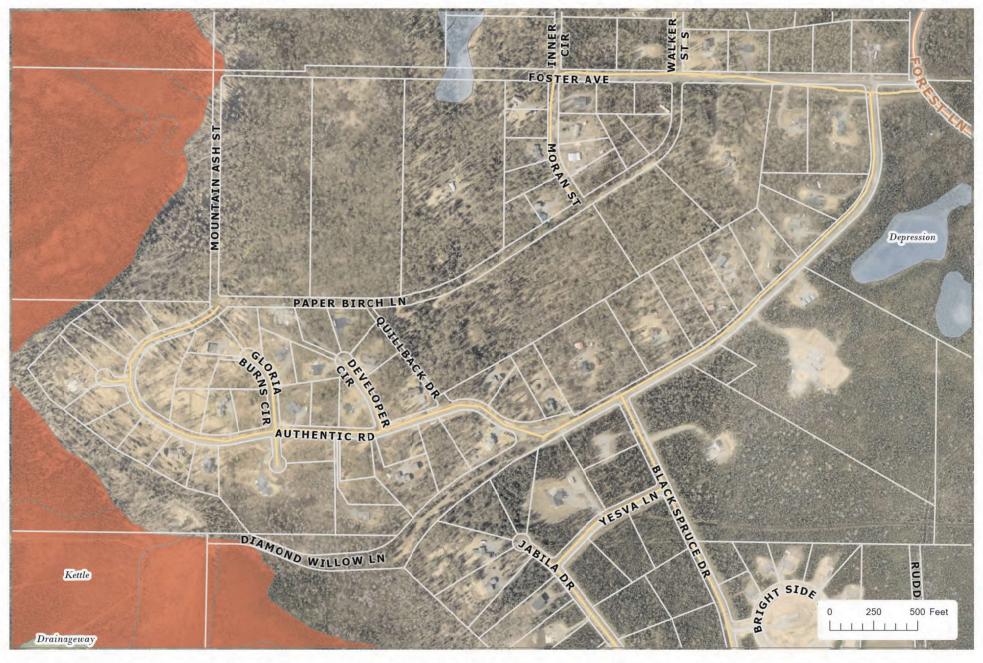
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KPB File Number 2022-023V 3/9/2022

N

Wetlands with Aerial Imagery



The information depicted hereon is for a graphical representation only of best available sources. The Kenai Peninsula Borough assumes no responsibility for any errors on this map. E3-11

Hindman, Julie

From:	Uhlin, Dil
Sent:	Tuesday, March 8, 2022 2:37 PM
То:	Hindman, Julie
Cc:	crmclane@mclanecg.com
Subject:	FW: <external-sender>RE: Paper Birch Vacation</external-sender>
Attachments:	Comments Roads 030722.pdf; 192010 Forest Hills Lookout Civil Prelim 3-8-2022.pdf;
	192010 Forest Hills Prelim-Rev1.pdf

Hi Julie,

The RSA will support the vacation actions with the knowledge that parcel access will be improved with the next phase of subdivision.

Dil Uhlin Director, RSA

From: Cody McLane [crmclane@mclanecg.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2022 10:54 AM
To: Uhlin, Dil
Cc: Hindman, Julie; James Hall; Steve Bowen
Subject: FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>RE: Paper Birch Vacation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the KPB system. Please use caution when responding or providing information. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, know the content is safe and were expecting the communication.

Dil,

In response to RSA comments on the proposed vacation of a portion of Paper Birch Lane right of way for Steve Bowen I'd like to offer support that Paper Birch Lane is effectively unbuildable to anything near RSA standards near the intersection with Authentic Road. I've attached a pdf of the preliminary design for the extension of Authentic Road along with a copy of the preliminary plat which is has already been reviewed and received preliminary approval by the Platting Dept. The right cut slope of the cross section at 3+50 (sheet X1) extends east into Paper Birch Lane and is shown at a 1:5:1 slope for reference. The elevation difference from the proposed centerline FG at Authentic at 3+10 (240.0') and the top of the hill on Birch Hill Lane 191' to the east (306') is approximately 66 feet for a centerline grade of over 34% approaching the intersection with Authentic. This result greatly exceeds allowable tolerances of codes 14.06.160A Vertical Alignment and 14.06.160E Intersections creating a dangerous intersection approach. As an alternative I am proposing to dedicate an alternative right of way as shown that extends to the west boundary of Lot 2 (parcel# 05836002). When this parcel is eventually subdivided the expectation is that this right of way would be extended to connect to Paper Birch Lane and provide superior access than that of the segment of Paper Birch which is proposed to be vacated. I am in process of finishing the road design and will be applying for a construction permit and eventually maintenance. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Cody

From: James Hall <jhall@mclanecg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 10:19 AM
To: Cody McLane <crmclane@mclanecg.com>
Subject: FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>RE: Paper Birch Vacation

From: Hindman, Julie <<u>ihindman@kpb.us</u>>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 10:17 AM
To: James Hall <<u>ihall@mclanecg.com</u>>
Subject: RE: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>RE: Paper Birch Vacation

Here it is. I've been playing phone tag with Steve with LittleKnife. I have encouraged him to contact the roads department to discuss.

Julie Hindman

Platting Specialist Ph: (907) 714-2210 Fx: (907) 714-2378



From: James Hall <<u>ihall@mclanecg.com</u>>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 9:55 AM
To: Hindman, Julie <<u>jhindman@kpb.us</u>>
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>RE: Paper Birch Vacation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the KPB system. Please use caution when responding or providing information. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, know the content is safe and were expecting the communication.

Thank you Julie for keeping us informed. Can you share the comment from the RSA department and whom we need to communicate the development in the area with?

James Hall, PLS McLane Consulting, Inc. 907-283-4218 office 907-953-5886 cell

From: Hindman, Julie <<u>jhindman@kpb.us</u>> Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 9:37 AM To: James Hall <<u>jhall@mclanecg.com</u>> Subject: Paper Birch Vacation

James,

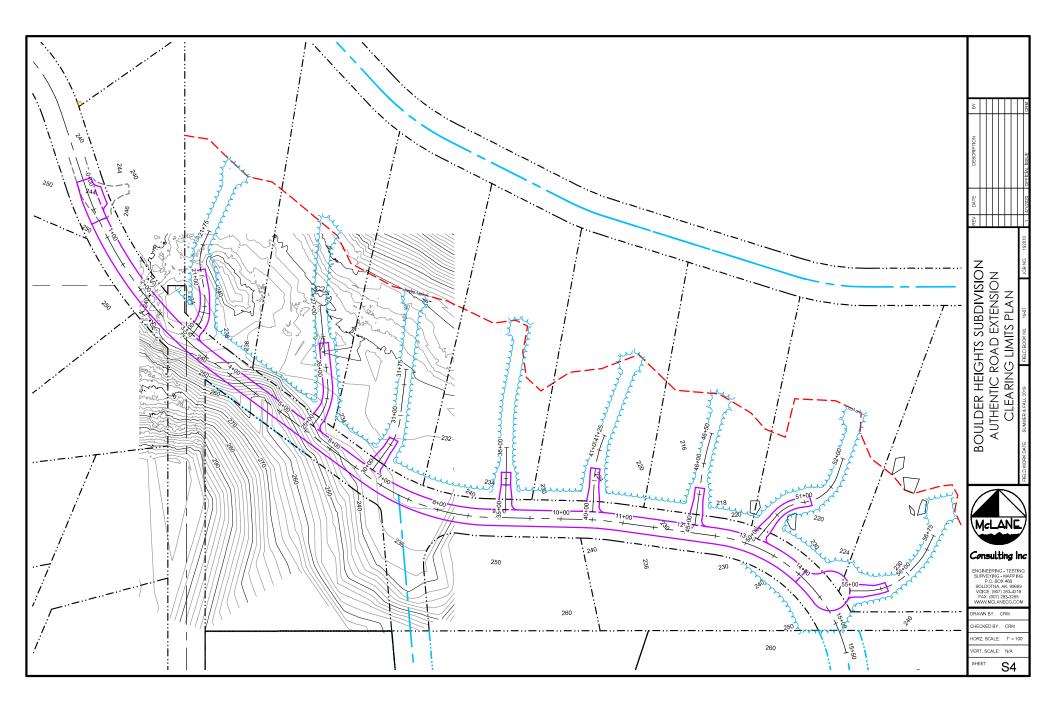
I wanted to inform you that we have received multiple calls from members of the public opposed to this vacation with intent to attend the meeting. The roads department as submitted a comment of opposition to the vacation because it will reduce/prevent access to other parcels.

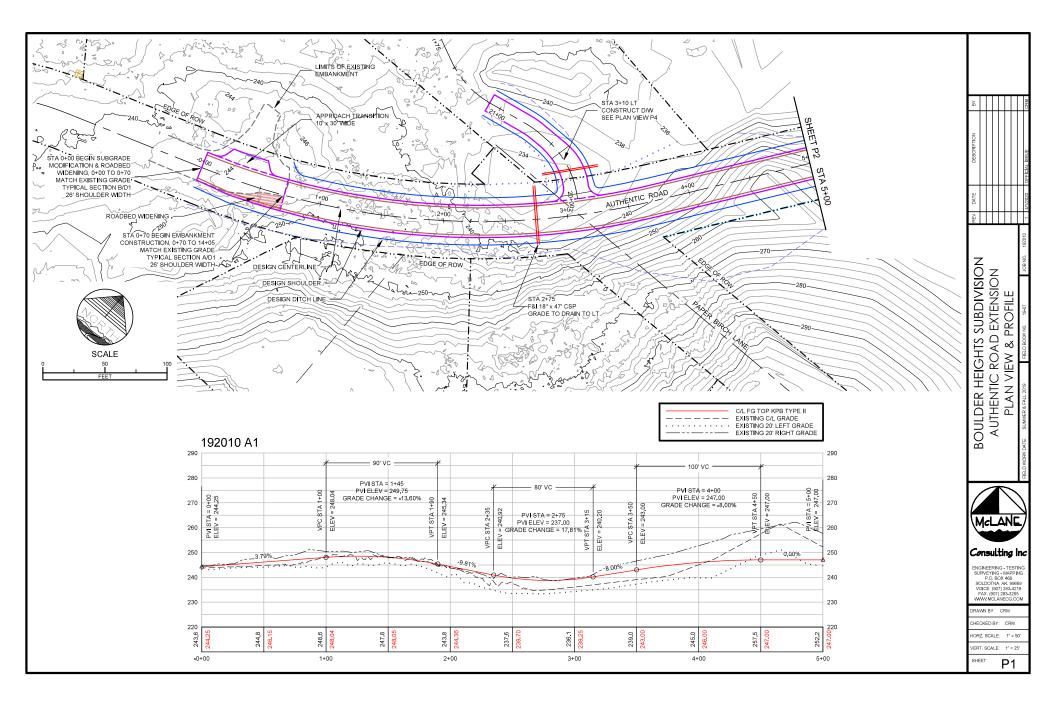
I wanted to let you know and I will be calling the petitioner today to let him know and suggest he begin working with the roads department on a solution that will either improve the roads department comment or how to resolve if denied.

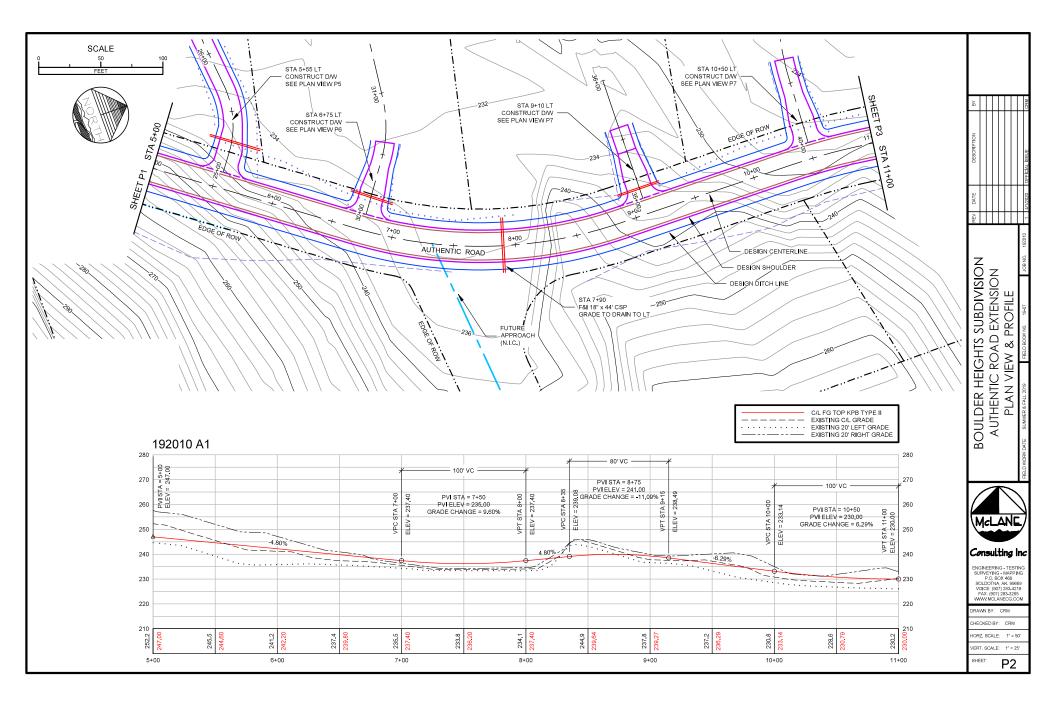
Julie Hindman Platting Specialist

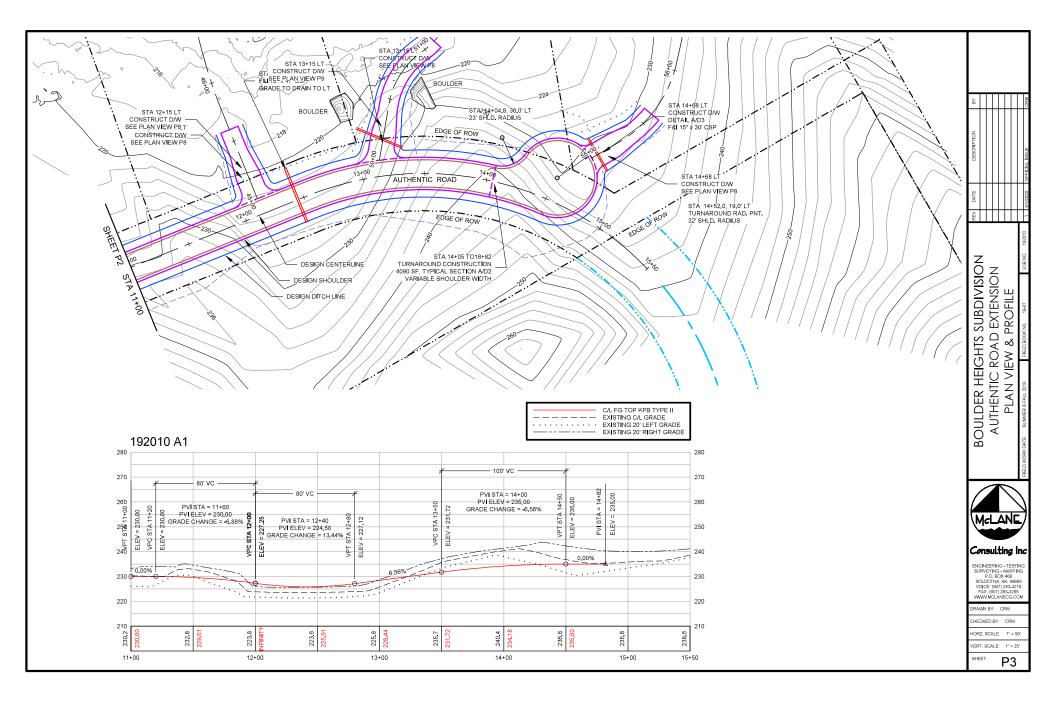
Ph: (907) 714-2210 Fx: (907) 714-2378

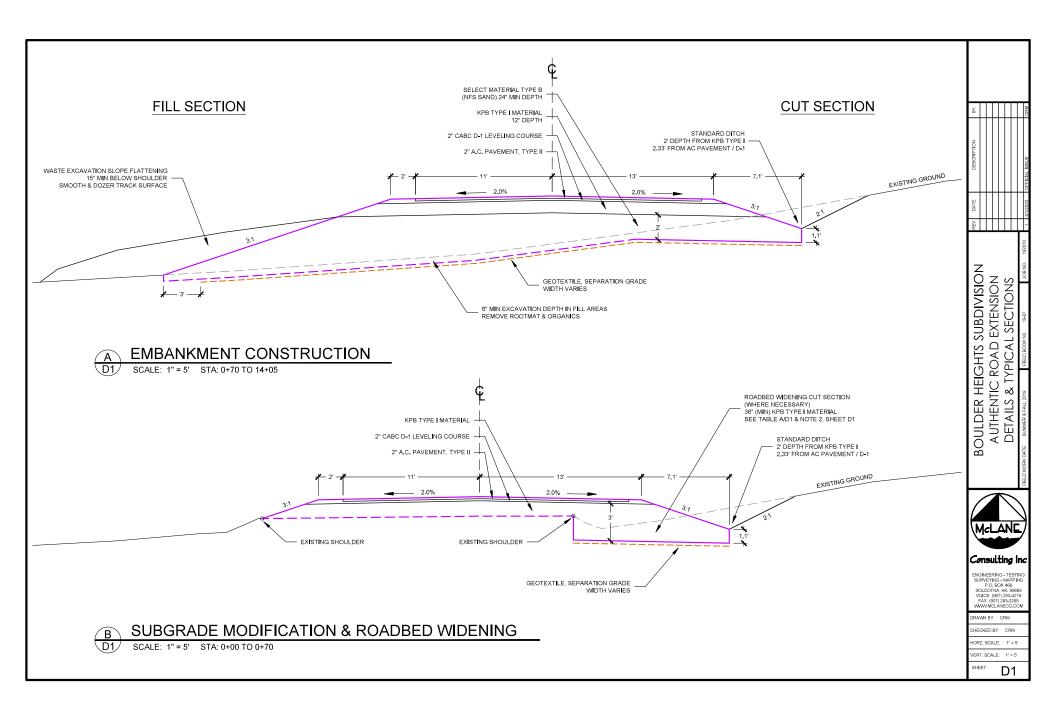


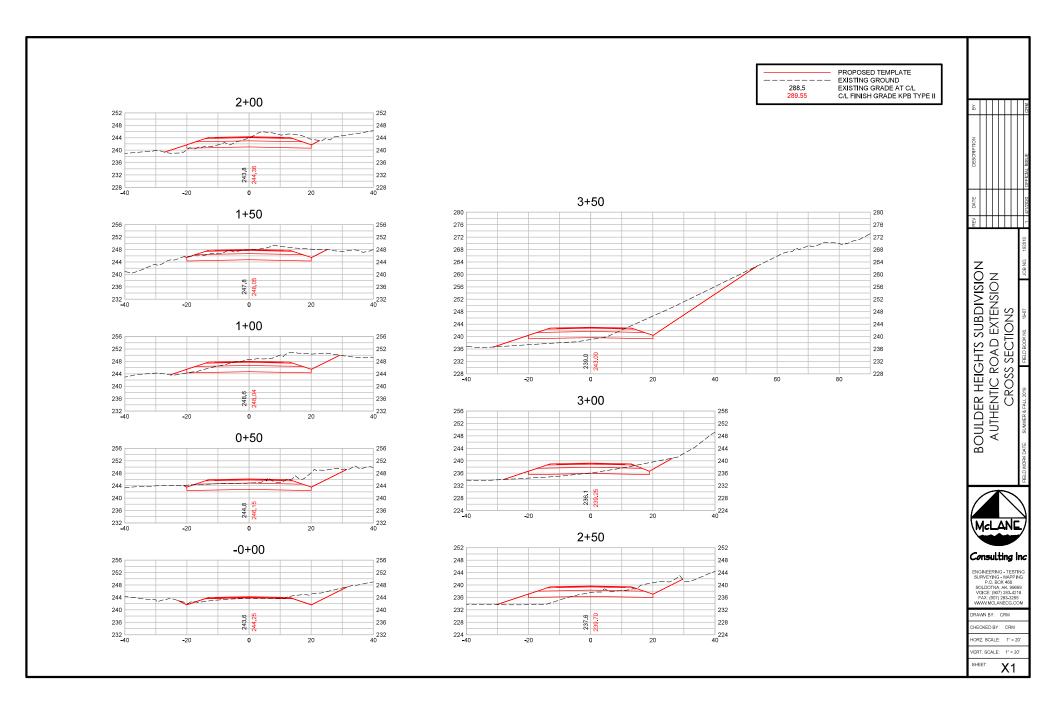


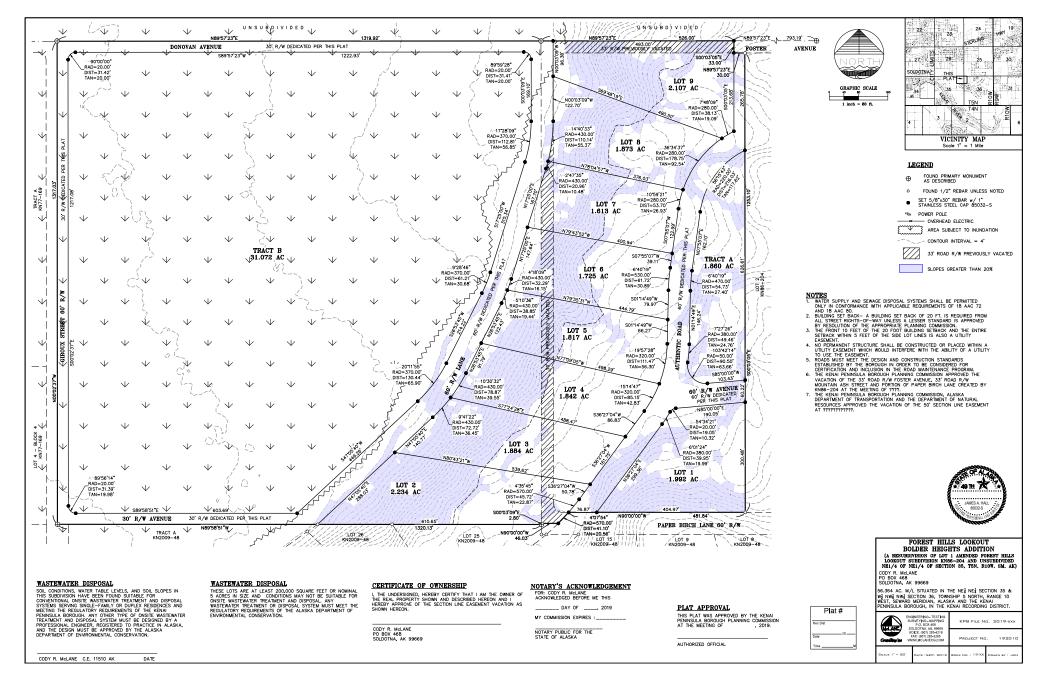


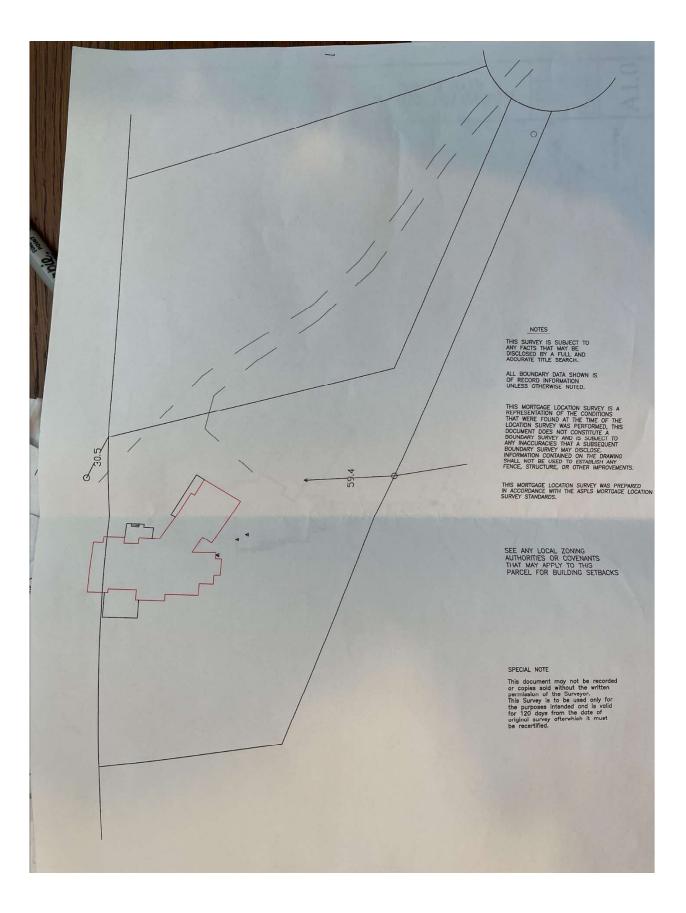


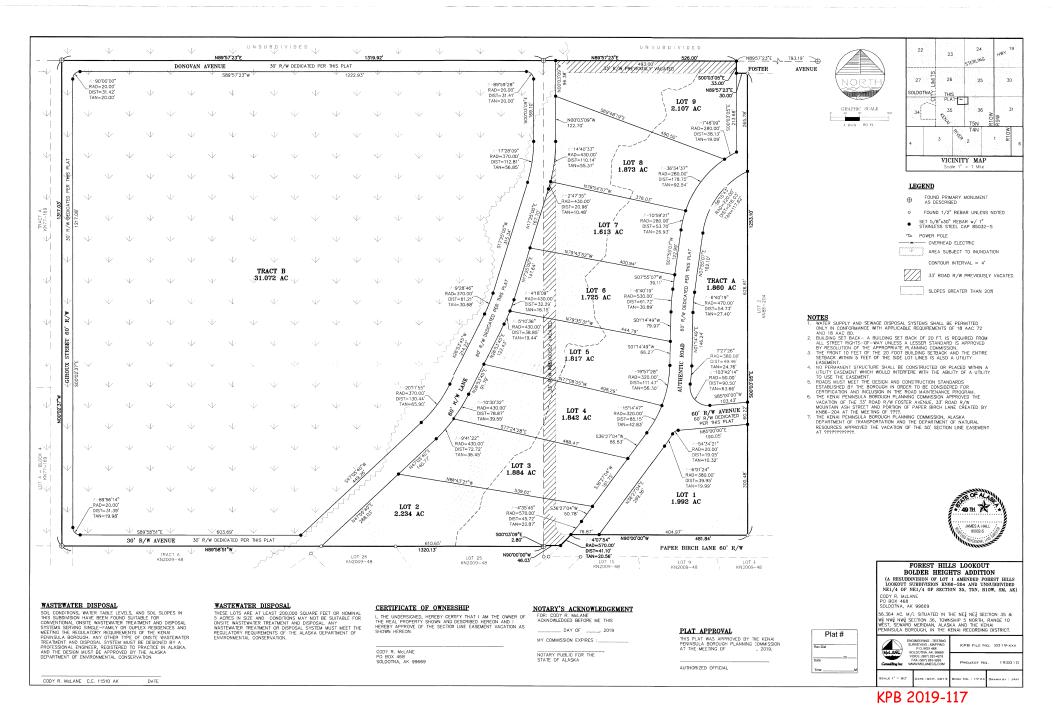


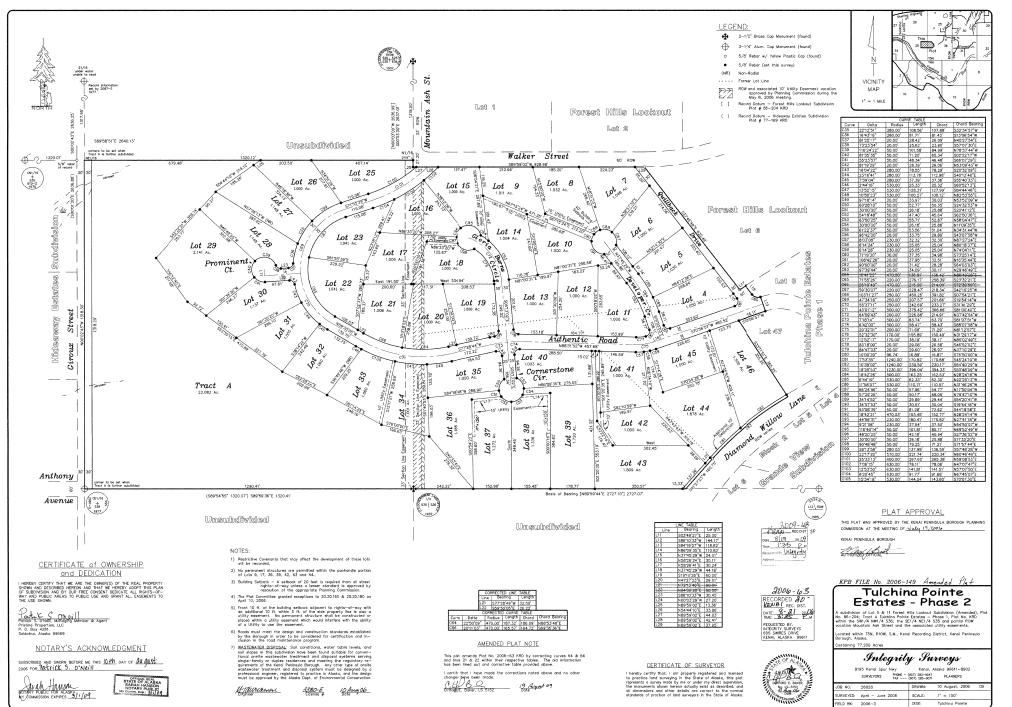












KN 2006 -

E

Kenai 2009-48

INTEGRITY SURVEYS

Tulchina Pointe Estates – Phase 2

AFFIDAVIT

The above referenced subdivision plat, as filed in the office of the District Recorder, Kenai Recording District, under Plat File No. 2006-63, has been amended by:

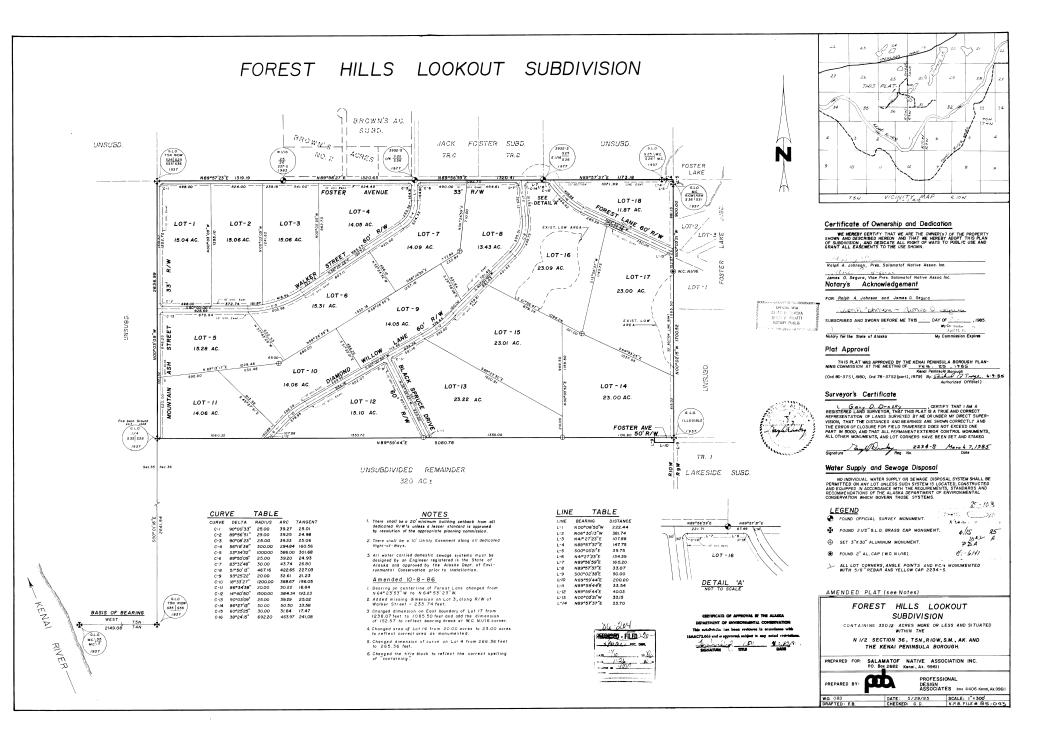
Correcting the correcting curves 64 & 66 and lines 21 & 22 within their respective tables. The old information has been lined out and corrective tables provided.

The above revision constitutes the sole change to the plat, aside from its notation thereon.

The above revision does not alter lot areas and does not affect or influence any change of ownership, drainage features, rights-of-way or any other item which would adversely affect this or adjacent properties. We, therefore, are submitting this plat for refiling as corrected

Date: 19 August 2009





E3-26