### MEMORANDUM

- TO: Kelly Cooper, Assembly President Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members
- FROM: Marcus Mueller, Acting Planning Director *Mcm*
- DATE: September 15, 2020
- **RE:** Vacate a 100' Section Line Easement within Tract B, Quartz Creek Subdivision (Plat SW 94-11). The Section Line Easement, running east to west, is unconstructed and located within the SW1/4 Section 25 and the NW1/4 Section 36, Township 5 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-098V

In accordance with AS 29.40.140, no vacation of a Borough right-of-way and/or easement may be made without the consent of the Borough Assembly.

During their regularly scheduled meeting of September 14, 2020 the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission granted approval of the proposed vacation of a portion of a 100' wide section line easement within Tract B, Quartz Creek Subdivision, plat SW 94-11, by majority vote (7-Yes, 1-No) based on the means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70. This petition is being sent to you for your consideration and action.

A draft copy of the unapproved minutes of the pertinent portion of the meeting and other related materials are attached.

September 14, 2020 Planning Commission Draft Meeting Minutes September 14, 2020 Agenda Item E2 Meeting/Desk Packet Materials The assembly shall have 30 calendar days from the date of approval in which to veto the planning commission decision. If no veto is received by the planning director within the specified period, the borough shall be considered to have given consent to the vacation.

#### KPB 20.70.120:

- A. Denial of a vacation petition is a final act for which no further consideration shall be given by the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- B. Upon denial by the planning commission, 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.

#### KPB 20.70.130:

THE FINAL PLAT MUST BE RECORDED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE VACATION CONSENT IN KPB 20.70.110.

END OF STAFF REPORT

Chair Martin opened the meeting for public comment.

<u>Jess Sweatt, P.O. Box 1103, Seward AK:</u> Mr. Sweatt, one of the petitioners for the proposed vacation, made himself available to the commission for any questions.

Seeing and hearing no one else wishing to comment Chair Martin closed public comment and discussion was opened among the commission.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ecklund moved, seconded by Commissioner Ruffner, to approve the vacation as petitioned based on the means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70, subject to staff recommendations and compliance with borough code.

Commissioner Carluccio noted that since this public access easement appeared to go down to the water, was the petitioner required to provide another equal or better access to the water for public use. Mr. Huff replied that to the north of the proposed vacation is a privately owned parcel, Tract B1, so the area proposed for vacation did not go to Kwechack Creek. Mr. Huff also noted that there is a public right-of-way, Bruno Road, which provides access to the creek area.

Chair Martin hearing no further discussion on the motion brought it back to the commission for a vote.

MOTION PASSED: Seeing and hearing no discussion or objection, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Yes	8 No 0 Absent 2					
Yes	Bentz, Brantley, Carluccio, Ecklund, Fikes, Martin, Ruffner, Venuti					
No	None					
Absent	Gillham, Morgan					

#### AGENDA ITEM E. NEW BUSINESS

#### PC Meeting: September 14, 2020

2. Vacate a 100' Section Line Easement within Tract B, Quartz Creek Subdivision (Plat SW 94-11). The Section Line Easement, running east to west, is unconstructed and located within the SW1/4 Section 25 and the NW1/4 Section 36, Township 5 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-098V

Staff report given by Scott Huff.

<u>Purpose as stated in petition</u>: To allow the development of Tract B with the Cooper Landing Commercial Area Plan.

Petitioners: Three Bears Alaska, Inc. of Wasilla, AK.

<u>Notification</u>: Public notice appeared in the September 2, 2020 issue of the Peninsula Clarion as a separate ad. The public hearing notice was published in the September 10, 2020 issue of the Peninsula Clarion as part of the Commission's tentative agenda.

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

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

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Public hearing notices were made available to five KPB staff/Departments (Addressing, Code Compliance, Planner, Roads Dept., River Center) via a shared database.

Notices were mailed to the <u>Cooper Landing</u> Post Office and <u>Cooper Landing</u> Community Library with a request to be posted in public locations.

The notice and maps were posted on the Borough bulletin board and Planning Department public hearing notice web site.

Comments Received:

ENSTAR: no comment or recommendation

Chugiak Electric: No comment regarding the vacation activity as described on the preliminary plat.

KPB Addressing: 21949 Sterling Hwy. will be retained on Tract B.

KPB Planning: KPB Planner unavailable. Platting staff review shows no local option zoning district or material site issues associated with this parcel.

KPB River Center: Not within a flood hazard area. Is totally or partially within the Anadromous Waters Habitat Protection District.

KPB Roads Department: Within KPB jurisdiction, no comment.

KPB Code Compliance: A branch of Quartz Creek runs through the parcel. There is a 50 foot buffer along the creek.

Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission: Not available at the time the staff report was prepared but if available will be included in the desk packet.

State Parks: No comment.

<u>Staff Discussion</u>: This land was federal land as shown on the US BLM section plat recorded Sept 28, 1992. The section line between Section 25 and Section 36 is depicted as a protracted section line, meaning that the survey markers were not set for this section line.

The property was transferred to the State of Alaska (SOA) and then subdivided by Alaska State Land

Survey 92-22 (plat SW 93-8). Plat note d) states All parcels of land owned by the State of Alaska, located within 50.00 feet of, or bisected by a surveyed section line, are subject to a 50 foot (50') easement, each side of the section line, which is reserved to the State of Alaska for public highways under A.S. 19.10.010. Per the State of Alaska Attorney General, a section line easement attaches to protracted section lines.

The borough acquired Tract A ASLS 92-22 and further subdivided the land as shown on Quartz Creek Subdivision (SW 94-11) Tract B, Quartz Creek Subdivision is affected by the protracted section line including 50 foot section line easements on both sides of the section line for a total section line easement width of 100 feet.

Tract B was purchased by Three Bears Alaska, Inc. in 2019. They have begun the process to construct a store on the property. The submitted site plans indicate that the section line easement will hinder their development plan. The tract is approximately 13.5 acres. The portion of the tract affected by the section line easement cannot contain any permanent structures. Approximately 1.9 acres of the property is affected by the section line easement.

KPB staff notes that there are concerns regarding the development plan and the existing conservation easements. Information regarding the allowed use within a conservation easement has been provided to the surveyor and site designer. The owners will need to contact KPB Lands Department with any questions regarding the conservation easement.

If approved, a Section Line Easement Vacation plat associated with Tract B Quartz Creek Subdivision will finalize the proposed section line easement vacations. Per KPB 20.10.080, the right of way vacation plat will be submitted to the Planning Department as a final plat. Since no property lines are changings and the plat is only removing the section line easement it will not be required to be reviewed by the Plat Committee unless staff deems it necessary or the Planning Commission makes it a condition for approval. The Final Plat must meet the requirements of KPB 20.40.020, 20.70.130, and applicable portions of 20.60. The final approval will rest with State of Alaska DNR.

#### KPB 20.70 – Vacation Requirements.

<u>Platting staff comments</u>: Staff reviewed the vacation and all the items required by 20.70 were met, unless otherwise noted below:

C. In areas where right-of-way is being vacated due to excessive topographic features, a contour map or centerline profile and/or right-of-way cross sectional view may be required by the commission to substantiate the unusable right-of-way and show alternate and dedicated routes to insure ingress and egress to adjacent lands.

Platting Staff Comments: A contour map has been provided in the packet. **Staff recommendation:** 

20.70.130. Vacation plat—Preparation, approval and recording. Upon approval of the vacation request by the planning commission and no veto by the city council or assembly, 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 in KPB 20.70.110.

Platting Staff Comments: A Section Line Easement Vacation plat has not been submitted at this time. Staff recommendation: Submit a Section Line Easement Vacation Plat for KPB review as well as submittal to AK DNR survey section.

#### 20.70.150. Title to vacated area.

A. The title to the street or other public area vacated on a plat attaches to the lot or lands bordering on the area in equal proportions, except that if the area was originally dedicated by different persons, original boundary lines shall be adhered to so that the street area which lies on one side of the boundary line shall attach to the abutting property on that side, and the street area which lies on the other side of the boundary line shall attach to the property on that side. The portion of a vacated street which lies within the limits of a platted addition attaches to the lots of the platted addition bordering on the area. If a public square is vacated, the title to it vests in the city if it lies within the city and to the borough if it lies within the borough outside a city. If the property vacated is a lot or tract, title vests in the rightful owner. Platting Staff Comments: The title to the property will not be affected. Only the section line easement within the parcel is being vacated.

### Staff recommendation:

20.70.160. Partial vacation allowed. Where the planning commission finds that a right-of-way must be preserved, but determines there is excessive width for all intended uses within the right-of-way, the commission may approve a partial vacation of a right-of-way such that the width is reduced to the maximum necessary for the intended use. Such vacation shall conform to this title for the class of right-of-way involved except where the right-of-way is not intended to be used for vehicular purposes.

Platting Staff Comments: The proposed vacation will vacate the entire section line easement within Tract B Quartz Creek Subdivision.

20.70.170. Vehicular Access. The planning commission shall not approve the vacation of a right-of-way unless an equal or superior right-of-way for vehicular access exists or will be provided in exchange. Where two or more access points are necessary for large vacant or semi-vacant areas of land, the commission shall consider density, use, projected development, and maintain sufficient rights-of-way to serve potential use.

Platting Staff Comments: The public is not using this portion of the SLE for vehicular access as it does not provide access to public lands or a continuing of right of way. The property fronts the Sterling Highway. There is a dedicated 60 foot right of way, Persistent Way, along the west parcel boundary. Persistent Way extends in a southwestern direction along the Cooper Landing Airstrip property. There is a 100 foot wide public pedestrian access easement along the eastern parcel boundary, 50 foot of which is within Tract B. Staff recommendation: Complies with 20.70.170.

20.70.180. Other access. Other lawful uses that exist or are feasible for the right-of-way shall be considered when evaluating a vacation request. When such uses exist or could exist within rights-of-way which are not suited for general road use, the commission shall not approve the vacation request, unless it can be demonstrated that equal or superior access is or will be available. The planning commission shall consider whether alternate uses present public safety issues which support approval of the vacation.

Platting Staff Comments: The existing dedicated ROW provide legal access for all other types of access.

20.70.190. Utility provisions. All existing and future utility requirements shall be considered when evaluating a vacation request. Rights-of-way which are utilized by a public utility or which logically would be required by a public 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 public utility easement be granted in place of the right-of-way.

Platting Staff Comments: Utilities are permitted and allowed to be placed in the outer 10 feet of the dedicated right of ways.

Staff recommendation: Comply with 20.70.190 and grant utility easements requested by providers that can be worked out and agreed upon by all parties.

20.30.220. Section line easement vacations. Section line easement vacation petitions must comply with the requirements of KPB 20.70.040, 20.70.050 and 20.70.060. A fee is required in compliance with KPB 20.70.060. Public hearing and notice must comply with the requirements of KPB 20.70.070, 20.70.080, 20.70.100, 20.70.110 and 20.70.120. The mail notice required in KPB 20.70.090 may be by regular mail. Publication on the planning commission agenda, advertised once in local papers, posted in public areas and on the borough website prior to the meeting will satisfy the publishing requirements. The petitioner is responsible for all submittals required by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in compliance with their procedures. The petition must be reviewed and approved by the planning commission but final authority for approval and platting of the vacation rests with DNR. The petitioner is responsible for coordination with DNR and submittals to DNR.

Platting Staff Comments: A SLEV plat has not been submitted to KPB Planning Department.

**Staff recommendation:** Submittal of a SLEV plat to the KPB Planning Department and the State of AK DNR – Survey' Section.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Based on the above means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70, the merits of the proposed vacations, and staff comments, staff recommends approval of the vacation as petitioned, subject to:

- 1. Consent by the KPB Assembly.
- 2. Approval by the State of Alaska.
- 3. Compliance with the requirements for preliminary plats per Chapter 20 of the KPB Code.
- 4. Grant utility easements requested by the utility providers.
- 5. Submittal of a final plat within a timeframe such that the plat can be recorded within four years of vacation consent (KPB 20.25.110).

#### KPB 20.70.110:

A vacation of a street right-of-way, public area, or public easement within the borough outside of the limits of cities may not be made without the consent of the borough assembly.

The assembly shall have 30 calendar days from the date of approval in which to veto the planning commission decision. If no veto is received by the planning director within the specified period, the borough shall be considered to have given consent to the vacation.

KPB 20.70.120:

- A. Denial of a vacation petition is a final act for which no further consideration shall be given by the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- B. Upon denial by the planning commission, 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.

#### KPB 20.70.130:

THE FINAL PLAT MUST BE RECORDED WITHIN FOUR YEARS OF THE VACATION CONSENT IN KPB 20.70.110.

END OF STAFF REPORT

Chair Martin opened the meeting for public comment.

<u>Mike Horn, Farpoint Land Services LLC, 1131 E. 76<sup>th</sup> Ave., #101, Anchorage, AK</u>: Mr. Horn was the surveyor on this project and he made himself available to the commission for questions. He stated that he agreed with staff recommendations and hopes that the commission will approve the section line easement (SLE) vacation. He also stated he was aware of the situation regarding the conservation easement and that it will need to be resolved for the project to move forward.

Steve Mierop, Vice President, Three Bears AK, Inc., 445 N. Pitman, Suite B, Wasilla, AK: Mr. Mierop represented the petitioner, Three Bears AK, Inc. Mr. Mierop stated that early on in this project, even before they purchased the property he spoke to someone at the borough regarding the section line & conservation easement vacations and was informed about the vacation process. Mr. Mierop noted that he was aware when the borough sold the property the conservation easement was not included in the tax assessment of the property. If they are successful with vacating the conservation easement, he understands that there will be an additional tax assessment that they will be required to pay. They need to deal with the SLE vacation first, since the vacation process with the state is much longer. If they are successful then they will move forward with the conservation easement. Since they cannot build within a SLE, if it is not vacated they will not be able to secure a bank loan for the project.

Seeing and hearing no one else wishing to comment Chair Martin closed public comment and discussion was opened among the commission.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brantley moved, seconded by Commissioner Ruffner, to approve the vacation as petitioned based on the means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70, subject to staff recommendations and compliance with borough code.

Commissioner Ecklund had a question for staff, can you explain what the access will be if the SLE easement is vacated, and second, how the site design will protect the creek. Mr. Huff replied a site plan was submitted

but was not used to determine whether the SLE could be vacated. What he looks at is access, currently the SLE provides access to Tract B, which is an airstrip. There is a 60-foot public right-of-way, Persistence Way, which provides legal access to the Sterling Hwy and the airstrip. If the SLE is vacated, there will still be legal access to the lots. Commissioner Ecklund then stated that the Cooper Landing APC expressed concern that one of the access points on the site plan was very close to an anadromous stream. Are any of the proposed access points within the Habitat Protection District (HPD)? Mr. Huff replied that according to the site plan the access points are not within the HPD. The stream is on the eastern boundary of Tract B, and the site plan shows one access point off Persistence Way and another from the Sterling Hwy., neither are within the HDP.

Commissioner Ruffner stated he had no problem separating the two easements. He had not seen a vacation of a conservation easement come before the commission and asked staff what the process would be to do so. Mr. Mueller replied there is no president for buying back a conservation easement. It would be a matter that would have to be brought back to the Planning Commission and possibly the Assembly. How it would work, being that we have not been through this process before, would depend on the proposal brought to borough.

Chair Martin hearing no further discussion on the motion brought it back to the commission for a vote.

MOTION PASSED: Seeing and hearing no discussion or objection, the motion passed by majority vote.

Yes	7	No	1	Absent	2			
Yes	Bent	z, Brantl	ey, Ec	klund, Fike	s, Mai	tin, Ruffner, Venuti		
No	Carlu	Carluccio						
Absent	Gillham, Morgan							

AGENDA ITEM E.

**NEW BUSINESS** 

PC Meeting: September 14, 2020

 A Conditional Use Permit is sought pursuant to KPB 21.18 for the construction of a 15-foot by 6-foot high chain link fence beginning at the water's edge attached to a 35-foot by 6-foot high cedar fence within the 50-foot Habitat Protection District of the Kenai River, as established in KPB 21.18.040.

KPB Planning Commission Resolution 2020-27

Staff given by Nancy Carver

Applicant: Marilyn DeFord PO Box 111433 Anchorage, AK 99511

Legal Description: T5N R10W SEC 30 Seward Meridian KN 0001382 Hodgson Subdivision Lot 13

Physical Address: 35795 Sabaca Road, Soldotna

KPB Parcel Number: 057-483-18

#### **Background Information**

In 2005 the applicant submitted an application for: bank restoration, elevated, light penetrating (ELP) structures, and 119 feet of fence along the side property line. A staff permit was issued for all items except the fence which required a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). On September 12, 2005, the Borough Planning Commission unanimously approved Resolution 2005-40, for a fence within the 50-foot Habitat Protection District (HPD). Prior to installation of the fence, the applicant observed severe medical issues prohibiting her moving forward with the CUP, which eventually expired.

On August 21, 2020, the applicant submitted an application for the installation of the fence as originally permitted. The proposed project will include the construction of a 15-foot section of a 6-foot high chain link

# AGENDA ITEM E. NEW BUSINESS

2. Vacate a 100' Section Line Easement within Tract B, Quartz Creek Subdivision (Plat SW 94-11). The Section Line Easement, running east to west, is unconstructed and located within the SW1/4 Section 25 and the NW1/4 Section 36, Township 5 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-098V



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#### AGENDA ITEM E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Vacate a 100' Section Line Easement within Tract B, Quartz Creek Subdivision (Plat SW 94-11). The Section Line Easement, running east to west, is unconstructed and located within the SW1/4 Section 25 and the NW1/4 Section 36, Township 5 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-098V

#### STAFF REPORT

PC Meeting: September 14, 2020

<u>Purpose as stated in petition</u>: To allow the development of Tract B with the Cooper Landing Commercial Area Plan.

Petitioners: Three Bears Alaska, Inc. of Wasilla, AK.

<u>Notification</u>: Public notice appeared in the September 2, 2020 issue of the Peninsula Clarion as a separate ad. The public hearing notice was published in the September 10, 2020 issue of the Peninsula Clarion as part of the Commission's tentative agenda.

Public hearing notices were sent by regular mail to 2 owners within 600 feet of the proposed vacation.

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

State of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game	Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission
State of Alaska DNR	Cooper Landing Emergency Services
State of Alaska DOT	Kenai Peninsula Borough Office - Seward
State of Alaska DNR	Kenai Peninsula Borough Land Management

Public hearing notices were made available to five KPB staff/Departments (Addressing, Code Compliance, Planner, Roads Dept., River Center) via a shared database.

Notices were mailed to the <u>Cooper Landing</u> Post Office and <u>Cooper Landing</u> Community Library with a request to be posted in public locations.

The notice and maps were posted on the Borough bulletin board and Planning Department public hearing notice web site.

#### Comments Received:

ENSTAR: no comment or recommendation

Chugiak Electric: No comment regarding the vacation activity as described on the preliminary plat.

KPB Addressing: 21949 Sterling Hwy. will be retained on Tract B.

KPB Planning: KPB Planner unavailable. Platting staff review shows no local option zoning district or material site issues associated with this parcel.

KPB River Center: Not within a flood hazard area. Is totally or partially within the Anadromous Waters Habitat Protection District.

KPB Roads Department: Within KPB jurisdiction, no comment.

KPB Code Compliance: A branch of Quartz Creek runs through the parcel. There is a 50 foot buffer along the creek.

Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission: Not available at the time the staff report was prepared but if available will be included in the desk packet.

State Parks: No comment.

<u>Staff Discussion:</u> This land was federal land as shown on the US BLM section plat recorded Sept 28, 1992. The section line between Section 25 and Section 36 is depicted as a protracted section line, meaning that the survey markers were not set for this section line.

The property was transferred to the State of Alaska (SOA) and then subdivided by Alaska State Land Survey 92-22 (plat SW 93-8). Plat note d) states All parcels of land owned by the State of Alaska, located within 50.00 feet of, or bisected by a surveyed section lin, are subject to a 50 foot (50') easement, each side of the section line, which is reserved to the State of Alaska for public highways under A.S. 19.10.010. Per the State of Alaska Attorney General, a section line easement attaches to protracted section lines.

The borough acquired Tract A ASLS 92-22 and further subdivided the land as shown on Quartz Creek Subdivision (SW 94-11) Tract B, Quartz Creek Subdivision is affected by the protracted section line including 50 foot section line easements on both sides of the section line for a total section line easement width of 100 feet.

Tract B was purchased by Three Bears Alaska, Inc. in 2019. They have begun the process to construct a store on the property. The submitted site plans indicate that the section line easement will hinder their development plan. The tract is approximately 13.5 acres. The portion of the tract affected by the section line easement cannot contain any permanent structures. Approximately 1.9 acres of the property is affected by the section line easement.

KPB staff notes that there are concerns regarding the development plan and the existing conservation easements. Information regarding the allowed use within a conservation easement has been provided to the surveyor and site designer. The owners will need to contact KPB Lands Department with any questions regarding the conservation easement.

If approved, a Section Line Easement Vacation plat associated with Tract B Quartz Creek Subdivision will finalize the proposed section line easement vacations. Per KPB 20.10.080, the right of way vacation plat will be submitted to the Planning Department as a final plat. Since no property lines are changings and the plat is only removing the section line easement it will not be required to be reviewed by the Plat Committee unless staff deems it necessary or the Planning Commission makes it a condition for approval. The Final Plat must meet the requirements of KPB 20.40.020, 20.70.130, and applicable portions of 20.60. The final approval will rest with State of Alaska DNR.

#### KPB 20.70 - Vacation Requirements.

<u>Platting staff comments</u>: Staff reviewed the vacation and all the items required by 20.70 were met, unless otherwise noted below:

C. In areas where right-of-way is being vacated due to excessive topographic features, a contour map or centerline profile and/or right-of-way cross sectional view may be required by the commission to substantiate the unusable right-of-way and show alternate and dedicated routes to insure ingress and egress to adjacent lands.

Platting Staff Comments: A contour map has been provided in the packet. **Staff recommendation:** 

20.70.130. Vacation plat—Preparation, approval and recording. Upon approval of the vacation request by the planning commission and no veto by the city council or assembly, 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 in KPB 20.70.110.

Platting Staff Comments: A Section Line Easement Vacation plat has not been submitted at this time. **Staff recommendation:** Submit a Section Line Easement Vacation Plat for KPB review as well as submittal to AK DNR survey section.

20.70.150. Title to vacated area.

A. The title to the street or other public area vacated on a plat attaches to the lot or lands bordering on the area in equal proportions, except that if the area was originally dedicated by different persons, original boundary lines shall be adhered to so that the street area which lies on one side of the boundary line shall attach to the abutting property on that side, and the street area which lies on the other side of the boundary line shall attach to the property on that side. The portion of a vacated street which lies within the limits of a platted addition attaches to the lots of the platted addition bordering on the area. If a public square is vacated, the title to it vests in the city if it lies within the city and to the borough if it lies within the borough outside a city. If the property vacated is a lot or tract, title vests in the rightful owner.

Platting Staff Comments: The title to the property will not be affected. Only the section line easement within the parcel is being vacated.

#### Staff recommendation:

20.70.160. Partial vacation allowed. Where the planning commission finds that a right-of-way must be preserved, but determines there is excessive width for all intended uses within the right-of-way, the commission may approve a partial vacation of a right-of-way such that the width is reduced to the maximum necessary for the intended use. Such vacation shall conform to this title for the class of right-of-way involved except where the right-of-way is not intended to be used for vehicular purposes.

Platting Staff Comments: The proposed vacation will vacate the entire section line easement within Tract B Quartz Creek Subdivision.

20.70.170. Vehicular Access. The planning commission shall not approve the vacation of a right-of-way unless an equal or superior right-of-way for vehicular access exists or will be provided in exchange. Where two or more access points are necessary for large vacant or semi-vacant areas of land, the commission shall consider density, use, projected development, and maintain sufficient rights-of-way to serve potential use.

Platting Staff Comments: The public is not using this portion of the SLE for vehicular access as it does not provide access to public lands or a continuing of right of way. The property fronts the Sterling Highway. There is a dedicated 60 foot right of way, Persistent Way, along the west parcel boundary. Persistent Way extends in a southwestern direction along the Cooper Landing Airstrip property. There is a 100 foot wide public pedestrian access easement along the eastern parcel boundary, 50 foot of which is within Tract B. **Staff recommendation:** Complies with 20.70.170.

20.70.180. Other access. Other lawful uses that exist or are feasible for the right-of-way shall be considered when evaluating a vacation request. When such uses exist or could exist within rights-of-way which are not suited for general road use, the commission shall not approve the vacation request, unless it can be demonstrated that equal or superior access is or will be available. The planning commission shall consider whether alternate uses present public safety issues which support approval of the vacation.

Platting Staff Comments: The existing dedicated ROW provide legal access for all other types of access.

20.70.190. Utility provisions. All existing and future utility requirements shall be considered when evaluating a vacation request. Rights-of-way which are utilized by a public utility or which logically would be required by a public 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 public utility easement be granted in place of the right-of-way.

Platting Staff Comments: Utilities are permitted and allowed to be placed in the outer 10 feet of the dedicated right of ways.

Staff recommendation: Comply with 20.70.190 and grant utility easements requested by providers that can be worked out and agreed upon by all parties.

20.30.220. Section line easement vacations. Section line easement vacation petitions must comply with the requirements of KPB 20.70.040, 20.70.050 and 20.70.060. A fee is required in compliance with KPB 20.70.060. Public hearing and notice must comply with the requirements of KPB 20.70.070, 20.70.080, 20.70,100, 20.70,110 and 20.70,120. The mail notice required in KPB 20.70,090 may be by regular mail. Publication on the planning commission agenda, advertised once in local papers, posted in public areas and on the borough website prior to the meeting will satisfy the publishing requirements. The petitioner is responsible for all submittals required by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in compliance with their procedures. The petition must be reviewed and approved by the planning commission but final authority for approval and platting of the vacation rests with DNR. The petitioner is responsible for coordination with DNR and submittals to DNR.

Platting Staff Comments: A SLEV plat has not been submitted to KPB Planning Department.

Staff recommendation: Submittal of a SLEV plat to the KPB Planning Department and the State of AK DNR – Survey Section.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Based on the above means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70, the merits of the proposed vacations, and staff comments, staff recommends approval of the vacation as petitioned, subject to:

- Consent by the KPB Assembly.
  Approval by the State of Alaska.
- 3. Compliance with the requirements for preliminary plats per Chapter 20 of the KPB Code.
- 4. Grant utility easements requested by the utility providers.
- 5. Submittal of a final plat within a timeframe such that the plat can be recorded within four years of vacation consent (KPB 20.25.110).

#### KPB 20.70.110:

A vacation of a street right-of-way, public area, or public easement within the borough outside of the limits of cities may not be made without the consent of the borough assembly.

The assembly shall have 30 calendar days from the date of approval in which to veto the planning commission decision. If no veto is received by the planning director within the specified period, the borough shall be considered to have given consent to the vacation.

KPB 20.70.120:

- Denial of a vacation petition is a final act for which no further consideration shall be given Α. by the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- Upon denial by the planning commission, no reapplication or petition concerning the same Β. 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.

KPB 20.70.130:

THE FINAL PLAT MUST BE RECORDED WITHIN FOUR YEARS OF THE VACATION CONSENT IN KPB 20.70.110.

END OF STAFF REPORT

Introduced by: Mayor Date: April 30, 1991 Hearing: June 18, 1991 Action: FAILED AS AMENDED Vote: 6 YES, 9 NO MOTION TO RECONSIDER: BROWN Reconsidered: 7/9/91 Action: ENACTED AS AMENDED Vote: 9 YES, 5 NO

#### KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ORDINANCE 91-20

AUTHORIZING A LEASE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE FOR SHERMAN C. SMITH ON LANDS LOCATED IN THE COOPER LANDING VICINITY AND LOCATED WITHIN A PORTION OF THE NWANEA OF SECTION 36 AND A PORTION OF THE SASEA OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 5 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, SEWARD MERIDIAN AND CLASSIFYING THESE LANDS AS "SALE LANDS"

WHEREAS, an application has been received from Sherman C. "Red" Smith for purchase of ten acres, more or less, located in the Cooper Landing area, for industrial development; and,

WHEREAS, the borough selected the subject land pursuant to the Municipal Entitlement Act and has received a final decision from the State of Alaska approving the selection; and

WHEREAS, a final decision does transfer certain management rights of the land allowing the borough to enter into leases, grant permits, easements, rights-of-way and dispose of lands; and,

WHEREAS, it is not borough policy to sell or otherwise convey title in lands until patent has been issued by the State of Alaska and received by the borough; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 1991, a memorandum, maps and supporting backup was sent out for review and comments to the School District, Cooper Landing Community Club, Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission, East Peninsula Road Service Area and departments of the borough; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

Section 1. That a long-term lease with option to purchase is hereby authorized for ten acres, more or less, located within a portion of NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 36 and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 25, Township 5 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

<u>Section 2</u>. That the subject lands are hereby classified as "Sale Lands" pursuant to Chapter 17.04 of the KPB Code of Ordinances.

Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 91-20 Page 1 of 2 Pages

Section 3. That the plat which creates the subject ten acre parcel shall designate a fifty foot conservation easement around the perimeter of the site, exclusive of a fifty foot wide entry and exit wherein no live, naturally existing vegetation over 3" in diameter shall be removed.

Section 4. That the annual lease shall be at the rate of six percent (6%) of the borough assessed valuation and shall be reappraised every five (5) years and the fee adjusted accordingly.

<u>Section 5</u>. That upon the borough receiving patent, the lessee may exercise his option to purchase the subject land at the current fair market value. Said purchase may be made by payment in full or a minimum down payment of ten percent (10%) of the fair market value with the remaining principal balance payable in installments at the rate of ten (10%) percent interest.

<u>Section 6</u>. That the Mayor is authorized to sign any documents necessary to effectuate this ordinance and deemed to be in the best interest of the borough.

	ENACTED THIS	9th DAY	OF	July	BY	THE	ASSEMBLY	OF
THE	KENAI PENINSUL	A BOROUGH	•	0 0				

James W. Skogstad, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 91-20 Page 2 of 2 Pages



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# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Planning Department \* Land Management Division 144 North Binkley Street • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520 PHONE: (907) 714-2205 • FAX: (907) 714-2378 Toll-free within the Borough: 1-800-478-4441, Ext. 2200 www.kpb.us

> MIKE NAVARRE BOROUGH MAYOR

May 3, 2017

Pixie Smith 309 Katmai Avenue Soldotna, AK 99669

Re: Tract B, Quartz Creek Subdivision, SW 94-11 APN: 119-124-18

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I have some more information to share with you regarding the 50' conservation easement affecting your parcel. It appears that the conservation easement is not solely a Platting matter, it is also a Land Management matter as the interests of the conservation easement belongs to the borough. Removing the plat note does not remove the restriction from the deed; removing the restriction from the deed does not remove the note on the plat. The following is a history of events leading to the borough's sale of Tract B to you, followed by the actions that will need to occur should you decide to proceed with your request.

- <u>07/09/1991:</u> The Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) enacted Ordinance 91-20 which authorized a long-term lease with option to purchase of ten acres more or less, and classified the lands "sale lands".
  - KPB had only received Final Decision from the State which meant land uses could be authorized, but interests in title cannot be conveyed. It is not borough policy to sell or otherwise convey title in lands until KPB has received patent, which meant your option could not be exercised until such time as the State issued a deed to KPB.
  - The ordinance required that when the plat was created, your parcel would be subject to a 50' conservation easement around its perimeter "wherein no live, naturally existing vegetation over 3-inches in diameter shall be removed".

07/22/1993: ASLS 92-22, recorded as Plat no. 93-8, creates Tracts A, B, & C.

<u>05/05/1994.</u> Quartz Creek Subdivision (a resub. of Tract A, ASLS 92-22), recorded as Plat no. 94-11, creates Tracts A-E. Tract B is approximately 13.52 acres in total.

<u>02/05/1996:</u> A Real Property Lease was executed authorizing Sherman C. Smith's the use of Tract B, and recorded as document 1996-000263, Seward Recording District.

- <u>04/29/1996:</u> Real Property Lease was assigned to Pixie A. Smith, and recorded as document 1996-000763, Seward Recording District.
- 03/04/1997: KPB receives State Patent No, 15658 for subject lands located within Sections 30 and 31, T05N, R02W, S.M.
- <u>10/22/1997:</u> The purchase price of Tract B was determined by a FMV appraisal of 10 acres of vacant land. The FMV appraisal did not consider the 50' conservation easement around the perimeter of your parcel (approximately 3.51 acres in total).
- 05/13/1998: Pursuant to Ordinance 91-20, KPB conveyed Tract B to you via a Statutory Warranty Deed recorded as document no. 1998-000696, Seward Recording District,
  - The conveyance was subject to a 50' conservation easement around the perimeter of the parcel wherein no live, naturally existing vegetation over 3" in diameter shall be removed, except for a 50' wide entry and a 50' wide exit. It was also subject to use restrictions for commercial and light industrial purposes.

The KPB is the primary interest holder in the 50' conservation easement affecting your parcel. In order to request to vacate the conservation easement from the deed, or a portion thereof, you will need to complete and submit the enclosed *Petition for Modification of Conveyance Instrument Restrictions*. Because the value of the land remains with the conservation easement, as evidenced by the 1997 appraisal, we expect that the easement would not be released without payment for those interests which were not included at the original sale.

This form can also be found by navigating to the following webpage.

http://www.kpb.us/images/KPB/LND/Documents/Permits Apps/Mod Con App.pdf

I hope this information helps clarify the considerations involved and the next steps necessary for requesting a removal of the conservation easement. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks!

Sincerely

Julie Denison Land Management Technician III (907) 714-2203 <u>idenison@kpb.us</u>









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SEWLING B-8

Officially Filed

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# **Kenai Peninsula Borough**

# PLANNING COMMISSION DESK PACKET

September 14, 2020 7:30 p.m.

# **Clements, Peggy**

From:	Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commision <cooperlandingapc@gmail.com></cooperlandingapc@gmail.com>
Sent:	Thursday, September 10, 2020 7:49 AM
To:	Janette Cadieux; Hartley, Patricia; Kathy Recken; Laura Johnson; Mueller, Marcus; Yvette
	Galbraith; Heather Harrison; Fletcher, Sandra; Hindman, Julie; Clements, Peggy; Chris
	Degernes
Subject:	<external-sender>2020 09 09 CLAPC Unapproved Minutes</external-sender>
Attachments:	20200909 CLAPC Minutes UNAPP.docx; SR Quartz Creek Sub Tract B SLEV
	2020-098V.pdf; 20200708 CLAPC Minutes APPROVED.docx

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.

Commissioners,

Here are the Unapproved Minutes from our September 9th Regular Meeting and the supporting documents not already available on the KPB's CLAPC webpage.

Please note that the CLAPC voted to:

• Disapprove the request for vacation of the section line until such time as the deficiencies in the design can be addressed and shown to the Platting Committee of the KPB Planning Commission and the CLAPC. These deficiencies include: the conservation easement described in Section 3 of KPB Ordinance 91-20 must remain intact, the public access that the section easement provides must be shown to be mitigated in the design, and the anadromous waters that surround this property must be protected.

I have also attached the Approved Minutes from the July 8th Regular Meeting. Please let me know if you need more info or have questions. Cheers, David

# COOPER LANDING ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING LOCATION: ZOOM TELECONFERENCE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2020 6:00 PM UNAPPROVED MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER 6:00pm
- 2. ROLL CALL J. Cadieux, L. Johnson, K. Recken, D. Story, Y. Galbraith present. H. Harrison, C. Degernes excused. S. Holland, S. Fletcher, K Route attending.
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Y. Galbraith moves to approve as written. L. Johnson seconds. All approve.
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for July 08, 2020 L. Johnson moves to approve as written. Y. Galbraith seconds, all approve.
- 5. CORRESPONDENCE none.
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENT/PRESENTATION WITHOUT PREVIOUS NOTICE none.
- 7. REPORT FROM BOROUGH
  - a. DOT&PF Sterling Hwy MP 45-60 Project report and questions/answers. Sean Holland, PE, Project Manager, AKDOTP&F.
    - i. Still working on clearing the preliminary corridor. About 95% complete.
    - ii. Firewood program is going well. Access is still soft and steep in places but there is a lot of wood to access. Estimated at about 150 cords taken by the public so far. KPB and USFS will pursue commercial operators to take some of the wood because the volume is so large.
    - iii. Geotechnical investigation is continuing and will do so as weather holds, likely into November.
    - iv. Aim to hold a public meeting for the 35% design of the highway to share some of the alignment updates around the bridge.
    - v. The final bridge type selection is narrowing down. A decked arch bridge is the current design that is favored.
    - vi. The hope is to get equipment to the bridge site area yet this fall in order to stage for bridge equipment so that work can commence in the spring earlier than waiting for usual road hardening timeline.
    - vii. The Slaughter Gulch trail will need some local input in order to determine the best access and crossing location.

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- viii. The Three Bears plat request asked for entry and exit onto the Sterling Highway which DOT believes will be denied in order to consolidate highway access to the Quartz Creek Rd. interchange.
- 8. OLD BUSINESS none.
- 9. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Kenai River Center Multi-Agency Permit Application for rehabilitation of the Seward Highway MP 17-22.5 including drainage improvements, new Victor Creek bridge, bridge updates including bike/ped path on Snow River bridge, some road re-alignment, and other specifics. See permit app for details.
    - i. J. Cadieux said that without a representative to explain some of the decisions, it is difficult to know how some of the assessments are made. She said that it would be useful to know some of how these decisions are made and would help with learning about other projects. S. Fletcher said she would contact Nancy Carver to find out if she could be available for such explanations of this and future projects. J. Cadieux will share some already identified questions so that those individuals can be prepared to respond to some of them specifically.
    - ii. The CLAPC is thankful for the opportunity to review the project information provided. The scope of the project is large and has introduced more questions that we feel would be benefitted by a representative who can speak to some of the specifics. We would like to invite any representatives who might be able to join us at our next meeting.

#### **10. PLAT REVIEW**

- a. Preliminary plat, KPB 2020-098v, Tract B, Sterling Hwy frontage lot, east of Sunrise, near the KPB transfer site.
  - i. K. Recken asked about the design drawing which shows encroachments on the 50' conservation easement that surrounds the property.
  - ii. J. Cadieux said that there is also a need to provide access if the section line is vacated and the current design places this access near the anadromous stream Denaina Creek.
  - iii. J. Cadieux emailed with KPB Platting Specialist Scott Huff who said that this preliminary design did not take into account these two limitations and that an updated design will be required to address these deficiencies.
  - iv. K. Recken moves to disapprove the request for vacation of the section line until such time as the deficiencies in the design can be addressed and shown to the Platting Committee of the KPB Planning Commission and the CLAPC. These deficiencies include: the conservation easement described in Section 3 of KPB Ordinance 91-20 must remain intact, the public access that the section easement provides must be shown to be mitigated in the

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design, and the anadromous waters that surround this property must be protected. Y. Galbraith seconds. All approve.

# 11. INFORMATION and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. J. Cadieux said that the Cooper Landing Community Club is working with the CLAPC to draft letters to trail websites to: 1. Promote trail etiquette and best use practices, 2. Contribute as a partner to the stewardship of non-maintained trails that are advertised or promoted on their sites or to consider not promoting non-maintained trails at all.
- 12. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS none.
- 13. ADJOURNMENT L. Johnson moves to adjourn. Y. Galbraith seconds. All approve. 7:32pm.

For more information or to submit comments please contact:

David Story, Secretary Treasurer or Janette Cadieux, Chair, P.O. Box 694, Cooper Landing, 99572CooperLandingAPC@gmail.com

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