

Here is the latest email communication from the City of Bellingham's Kim Weil partially explaining what the city would require to make any changes in the wetland and buffer, primarily in the trail easement.

On Fri, Mar 11, 2022, 12:45 PM Weil, Kimberly wrote:
Mike—

There are two approvals needed to construct a drainage ditch in the trail easement (see easement attachment). I think if we refer to that 50-foot wide area as "trail easement", it is most accurate. The property belongs to the Commons, a trail easement was dedicated to the city, and within the easement there are wetlands on the southern end. While it acts as a buffer from the neighboring property, and there is wetland buffer within it, it is a trail easement.

One of the approvals is the licensing agreement with the Parks Dept. I think the association knows how to go about that. I recommend working with Laine Potter again.

The other approval is the Minor Critical Area Permit (MCAP) I've mentioned. The MCAP is needed for any work within the 80-foot wetland buffer as shown on the attachment. The wetland was delineated in 2013 and an 80-foot buffer assigned at the time. Wetland delineations area valid for five years, so we will need an update to the delineation to find the current location of the wetland boundary (could've grown or shrunk) and the current rating. When it was rated in 2013, the property was not yet developed, so we'll want to find out if the rating still yields an 80-foot buffer. This work will tell us all where the regulated wetland and buffer are currently. I recommend contacting Ed Miller at Miller Environmental Services because he's the wetland biologist who's done the wetland work here.

Here is a link to the MCAP application: <https://cob.org/wp-content/uploads/minor-cap-application.pdf> Complete pages 1-5. The scope of work will be described in the application and shown, to scale, on an aerial photo. Mitigation will likely be required. Ed Miller will be able to assess the permanent and temporary wetland buffer impacts resulting from the proposal and then recommend mitigation which will be in the form of installing native plants. When the application is complete, you can either email it to me or bring in a paper copy to city hall. The fee is \$106.

I imagine you'll have questions, and I'll be happy to answer them. I'm out for the rest of the day, back on Monday.

Have a good weekend!

Kim