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Prince George's County
M-NCPPC – Development Review Division
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Dr
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

SUBJECT:

Richardson Subdivision
Preliminary Plan 4-21028
STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION

OVERVIEW

The subject property is approximately 1,000 feet southeast from the intersection of Old Alexandria Ferry Road and Woodyard Road, at 8311 Richardson Road, Clinton, Maryland. The property is identified as Parcel 25, Tax Map 117, Grid B7. The subject property is 6.35 acres and zoned Rural Residential (R-R).

The existing land uses on the property consist of undeveloped primarily wooded area; approximately 0.5 acres of the northern portion of the property is heavy high grassed area. This development proposes to develop a portion of the site located north from the existing stream and wetland. To south the site will remain undeveloped.

NATURE OF THE REQUEST

The Applicant seeks approval of a Preliminary Plan for approximately six (6) single-family detached dwellings. The existing cul-de-sac at the end of Rammer Drive will be removed and the road extended approximately 300 feet and terminated with a new cul-de-sac. The single-family detached lots are proposed on a new cul-de-sac to maximize woodland preservation, since environmental features proposed mostly to be preserved on the other half to the site.

I. RELATIONSHIP TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

Sec. 24-152(b) - Purpose.

The purpose of a conservation subdivision is to protect the character of land through the permanent preservation of farmland, woodland, sensitive natural features, scenic and historic landscapes, vistas, and unique features of the site

in keeping with the General Plan and Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan. The standards in this Section provide for lots, open space and internal street designs that conserve woodlands, farmland, farm structures, historic structures, and the scenic and unique character of development sites. A conservation subdivision prioritizes site characteristics for conservation and is intended to create a site layout that conserves important site features such as open space networks, blocks of productive farmland, unique characteristics of a site and contiguous woodland habitats. The site design should encourage agricultural pursuits, create attractive development layouts respecting existing features of the site, and encourage connectivity between scenic, historic, agricultural, and environmental characteristics of abutting properties.

Section 24-152(f)(2)(A) requires a prioritization of characteristics of the Property, as follows:

- (f) Submittal requirements. The applicant shall file a sketch plan in accordance with Section 24-119(c) before submitting a preliminary plan of subdivision.
 - (1) The Planning Director or designee shall certify the completion of the sketch plan process, as required in this Section prior to the acceptance of a preliminary plan of subdivision.
 - (A) The sketch plan shall remain valid for two (2) years from the date of certification.
 - (B) Upon a written request received prior to the expiration, the sketch plan validity period may be extended by the Planning Director, if the applicant has not unduly delayed the filing of a preliminary plan of subdivision.
 - (C) The certification of the sketch plan is not to be construed as the approval of the lot yield, but the completion of the sketch plan process for planning purposes.
 - (2) The intent of the sketch plan is to clearly document the design process, and to prioritize the characteristics of the site to be preserved in a conservation parcel
 - or lot. Priorities can be a combination of site characteristics and may include areas of the site not otherwise regulated by this Subtitle.
 - (A) The sketch plan shall document the existing features of the site. The characteristics of the site are generally categorized as follows:
 - (i) Scenic;
 - (ii) Agricultural; (iii) Environmental; and (iv) Historic.

RESPONSE:

Richardson Subdivision proposes to conserve the environmental sensitive areas within conservation parcel located on the southern part of the property. This conservation subdivision preliminary plan proposes to protect the character of land through the permanent preservation of woodland and sensitive natural features located on the property.

Woodland Conservation Area is approximate 4.03 acres which is 2/3 of the site. This Woodland Conservation area includes the existing stream, wetland, and buffers, as well as the southern undisturbed wooded portion of the site. The area is bounded on the south, east and west by a forested area belonging to an adjoining densely wooded residential parcels and to the north by the proposed development. This woodland conservation area has

a high priority retention designation because it is partially located on steep slopes, contains wetland, includes numerous specimen trees, and contains Primary Management Area. The Woodland Conservation Easement of 3.92 acres is provided which is 61.73% of the gross tract area.

Therefore, the site contains a total of 1.72 acres of PMA which is 27% of the total site area, located in the middle of the site. The PMA comprises of 518 linear feet of regulated streams and associated 100-foot-wide Tier II stream buffers, as well as wetlands, wetland buffers, areas of steep slopes.

The proposed development requires to construct six single residential houses, public road, and stormwater management facilities. This development will not have any impact to environmentally regulated features.

Significant environmental benefits will be realized in the form of stormwater management measures. No stormwater management controls exist on the site as currently developed. As part of this project, the subdivision plans to utilize environmental site design ("ESDs"), to include dry wells, roof disconnection, non-roof disconnection, permeable pavers, and grass swales to achieve a full SWM requirements. The detailed SWM will be finalized at preliminary subdivision plan. Runoff will be directed to the stormwater facilities through a combination of sheet flow and enclosed storm drainage systems and will release water with a post-development peak runoff rate that is less than the pre-development peak runoff rate during the 10-year storm events.

CONCLUSION

The property is located within the Developing Tier, is a good candidate for a conservation subdivision development. This subdivision will function together with the abutting environmental features and provide an aesthetically pleasing fit into the surrounding neighborhood. No conflicts with adjacent residential uses are anticipated. Furthermore, provisions have been made to facilitate pedestrian connectivity.

It is anticipated that road, sidewalk, and other infrastructure will be constructed in accordance with all applicable design standards. Details of the proposed development will be fully examined at the Preliminary Plan of Subdivision stage.

The Applicant respectfully requests this Preliminary Plan for a Conservation Subdivision be approved.

Respectfully submitted,