

RE: Final Plan Adoption and Next Step

Date: 1/19/2010

Today the Gallatin County Commission approved the final resolution adopting the Amsterdam/Churchill Community Plan. Congratulations – it's been a lot of work and thanks to everyone for being a part of the process.

As I said in the email I sent out a couple of weeks ago, we need to begin our next steps quickly. Right now, there are three things to work on over the next few months:

- Zoning
- Community water
- Sidewalks

As most of you know, Gallatin County adopted interim zoning for the entire county (including the Amsterdam/Churchill area) addressing gravel mining operations in May 2008. That interim zoning expires in May 2010. Over the past year, a task force (appointed by the Commission) has looked at options for the County once the interim zoning expires. The task force presented their recommendations to the Commission back in December; their primary recommendation was to zone the county permanently for gravel pits.

The Commission has said on record they do not want to do this but are, instead, interested in individual planning areas (like Amsterdam/Churchill) addressing the issue themselves. This fits well with the Amsterdam/Churchill Community Plan's call for local control. In order to address this in a timely manner, the Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group is strongly considering proceeding with zoning in two separate stages: Stage one would be adoption of an initial zoning regulation that only addressed mitigation of gravel pits; Stage two would be comprehensive amendments for the rest of the regulation which would implement the plan.

This could be confusing, but its important for everyone to realize that a) the Community Plan says that new zoning regs will be adopted addressing gravel pits (policy 5.5), and b) this is nothing new but simply breaks adoption of the zoning regulation into two separate stages.

At our meeting this Monday, we will continue discussing this issue. Please take a look at the attached letter we talked about sending out and come with comments or suggestions. Also, those of you on the Fire Department please let us know if you're comfortable with the language about community water <<AC letter 1.18.10\_97.doc>> (we talked about this in concept but not in detail).

Again, thanks to everyone for their work. I'll see you Monday, January 25 at 7 pm at the Churchill Bank. Call if you've got any questions.

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