

May 2, 2007

Mr. George Small
Engineering Director
Town of Chapel Hill
405 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

5/4/07⁶

Subject: Request for Abandonment of the Unopened Part of Allard Road

Dear Mr. Small,

My immediate neighbors and I are requesting the Town of Chapel Hill to abandon the unopened Allard Road Right-of-way which lies between our properties. The southern end of this unopened right-of-way joins Michaux Road.

This unopened section of road, which immediately borders my property at 1710 Michaux Road, has remained in a natural state for at least the last 20 years that I have lived here.

During the Fall of 1993, the approval for the Vernon Hills subdivision proceeded through the usual steps and public hearing process. As part of the final agreement, the Town Council approved the stipulation at the October 13, 1993 Council Meeting that the "proposed middle cul-de-sac off Michaux Road (at the Allard Road intersection) be built to local Class A standards and that right-of-way f sac be dedicated." This has been done and my neighbors and I have landscaped a portion of the right-of-way and maintained a 6 foot wide heavily forested well used pedestrian path connecting Allard Road to Michaux Road from then to date.


In the Fall of 2006, OWASA hired a contractor to "clear" its easement along this Town right-of-way without notifying the neighbors. Alarmed neighbors stopped the planned clearing of around 10,000 sq. ft. of forest in process with only the loss of about a dozen 10" and larger trees. Discussions with OWASA management over several months have determined that the clearing is unnecessary and that OWASA would be happy to abandon the short water main connector that runs along the Town right-of-way rather than maintain and soon have to replace the old concrete pipe. This agreement with OWASA pleases all involved parties since it reduces OWASA operating costs and saves around 140 trees ranging from 3" to 20" diameter.

My neighbors and I request the Town of Chapel Hill to abandon the Allard Road right-of-way. Given the construction of cul-de-sac in 1993, it is apparent that the Town does not have needs for extending this section of road through the right-of-way and our neighbors on Michaux and Allard Roads have no interest in such. Moreover, given that the surrounding area is essentially fully developed (and has been for some time), it seems unlikely that there could ever be a need to extend Allard road in the foreseeable future.

Abandoning the right-of-way and deeding the property to the surrounding neighbors will transfer maintenance expenses from the town to the neighbors, preserve some lovely woods, and encourage the neighbors to undertake improvements that will enhance the neighborhood. Specifically, if the right-of-way were abandoned, I would be able to replace my high maintenance gravel driveway which empties onto this right-of-way with a more permanent, more attractive version. The other neighbors and I also would be able to improve the frontage on the Allard cul-de-sac, to make the property more attractive and better support the existing footpath. These actions would enhance the beauty and the value of the neighborhood while reducing the town's expenses.

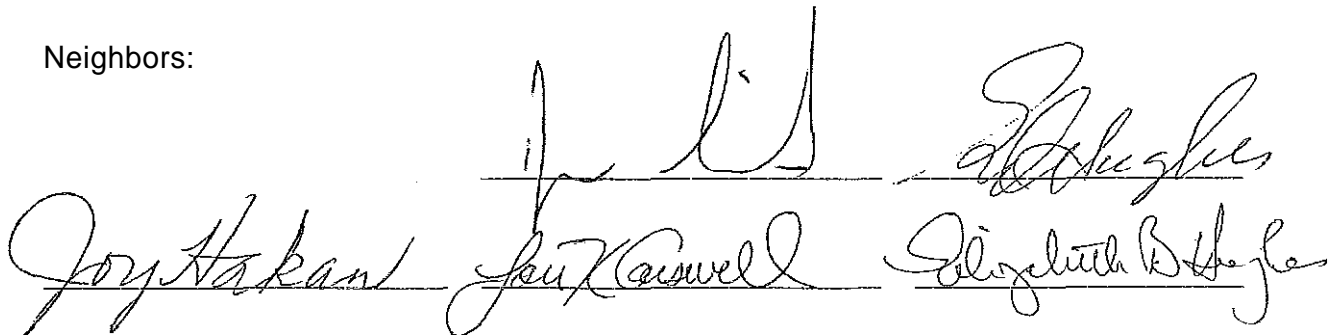
We would greatly appreciate your assistance and guidance in bringing this request to the attention of the Town Council for action.

Sincerely,



Fred Lampe
Linda Larnpe
1710 Michaux Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-942-2735

Neighbors:



Joy Hakan
1710 Allard Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-967-6214

James Smith
Lori Carswell
247 Knollwood Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-932-5752

David Hughes
Betty Hughes
1708 Michaux Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-929-8036

cc: Mr. Ralph Karpinos, Town Attorney
Mr. Roger Stancil, Town Manager
Mr. Mike Taylor, Engineering Design Specialist