

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Jon Hutchings**  
Director



**Joseph P. Rutan, P. E.**  
County Engineer/Assistant Director  
322 N. Commercial Street, Ste 301  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4042  
Phone: (360) 715-7450  
Fax: (360) 715-7451

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Whatcom County Council

**From:** Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director  
Joe Rutan, Assistant Director/County Engineer  
Doug Ranney, Engineering Manager

**Date:** April 10, 2018

**Re:** Appeal by Citizen to Address Change Due to Road Naming Requirement

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Frank S. Tapley has submitted an appeal to the Public Works requirement for the readdressing of his property off Loomis Trail Rd. In the absence of a Citizen's Address and Road Naming Appeals Committee, the appeal is forwarded to the Whatcom County Council for decision.

Pursuant to Whatcom County Code 12.60.050, *Requirement for road name*:

"Road names shall be required for all public roads and private roads now existing or hereafter created when such roads:

1. Are any length and serve five or more lots; or
2. Are 1000 feet or greater in length and serve three or more lots."

The private easement road in question serves six lots with existing homes and measures 1,600 feet (see attached map).

Mr. Tapley's property fronts Loomis Trail Road but is accessed from the existing private easement road scheduled to be named. Mr. Tapley does not feel his address should change when the private easement road is named (see attached appeal letter for his argument). The Whatcom County Addressing Committee consisting of multiple municipal representatives including WhatComm 911 and City of Bellingham Fire Department have concurred with the requirement to readdress this property.

WCC 12.60.010 states that "The purpose of this chapter is to provide for a logical system of road naming and address numbering, which is consistent with the desires of Whatcom County residents, with the Whatcom County comprehensive plan, and with the practical needs of county residents, emergency service providers, and visitors."

Public Works recommends that the County Council deny the appeal, uphold the determination that the subject property be re-addressed with the new private road name/number and direct staff to proceed with the readdressing action.

Enclosures:

- 1) Vicinity Map
- 2) Tapley Appeal Letter
- 3) Addressing Committee Determination
- 4) Whatcom County Code 12.60.040/050





8678  
GILES RD

8616  
GILES RD

98230

8540  
GILES RD

8526  
GILES RD

8537  
WHITE RD

8450  
PORTALWAY

3550  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3552

3576  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3554  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3540  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3504  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3560  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3566  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3555  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3600  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3668  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3648  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3619  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

3686  
LOOMIS TRAIL RD

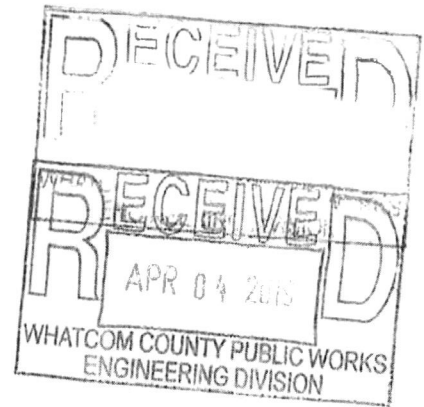
8450  
PORTALWAY



Citizen of Whatcom County Appeal.

Subject: Road Name Project RN#: RD19-05

Under: Whatcom County Ordinance 96-049



TO: The persons or councilmen in charge of the appeal review.

Date: March 31, 2019

From; Frank S. Tapley, 3566 Loomis Trail Rd, Blaine, Wa.

98230; ph: 360-332-7956

Reason for the Appeal;

The appeal is to the commission because this resident person living on ( parcel number 400115181018 ) wishes to maintain his Loomis Trail address on the ground he feels he does not fully fit the requirements of the ordinance, "AS STATED and REASONS."

April 2, 2019

The Whatcom County Ordinance 98-049 created in 1995, in conjunction with ongoing Road Name Project RN19-05, says:

1. Serve 5 or more lots, or
2. Are 1000 feet in length and serves 3 or more lots.

#### REASONS FOR APPEAL.

1. My address has been the same for this property since 1987, ie, before the 1995 ordinance.
2. This road has been my driveway since existence and when the only residence on this road.
3. The house is less than 75 feet from Loomis Trail Rd.
4. My PSE utility power does not come from access road. The power pole comes directly off from Loomis Trail Road, onto this property.
5. The property ID # 116149 is not a "lot" it is acerage, as real estate definition of a lot is: a parcels of land inside an acer for multiple single homes.
6. This home is extremely easily visible from Loomis trail for emergency vehicle location.
7. The driveway leading to the house is considered a private but shared driveway.

Conclusion of my Appeal to Whatcom County  
Ordinance and road project RN19-05.

I appeal to those who are in charge of the Whatcom County Ordinance 96-049 to retain my addressed location as it now stands, ie, the retention of 3566 Loomis Trail Rd, for any or all the reasons stated and the fact that with todays emergency vehicles, 25 years after the ordinance, all emergency vehicles have GPS for locating residences, making it far more easier and faster than ever before to find locations.

In the past there has been fire trucks and police down this road without any problem.

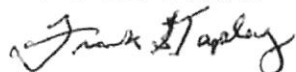
Including that this residence is closer to the Loomis Trail Road than 98% of all other driveways within a full mile distance from Portal Way to Valley View Rd.

I appeal with logic and common sense that my residence being so near and "on" the main road would retain its address for normal use, and in hopes that those in review would have enough common sense and insight to evaluate this appeal in my good favor.

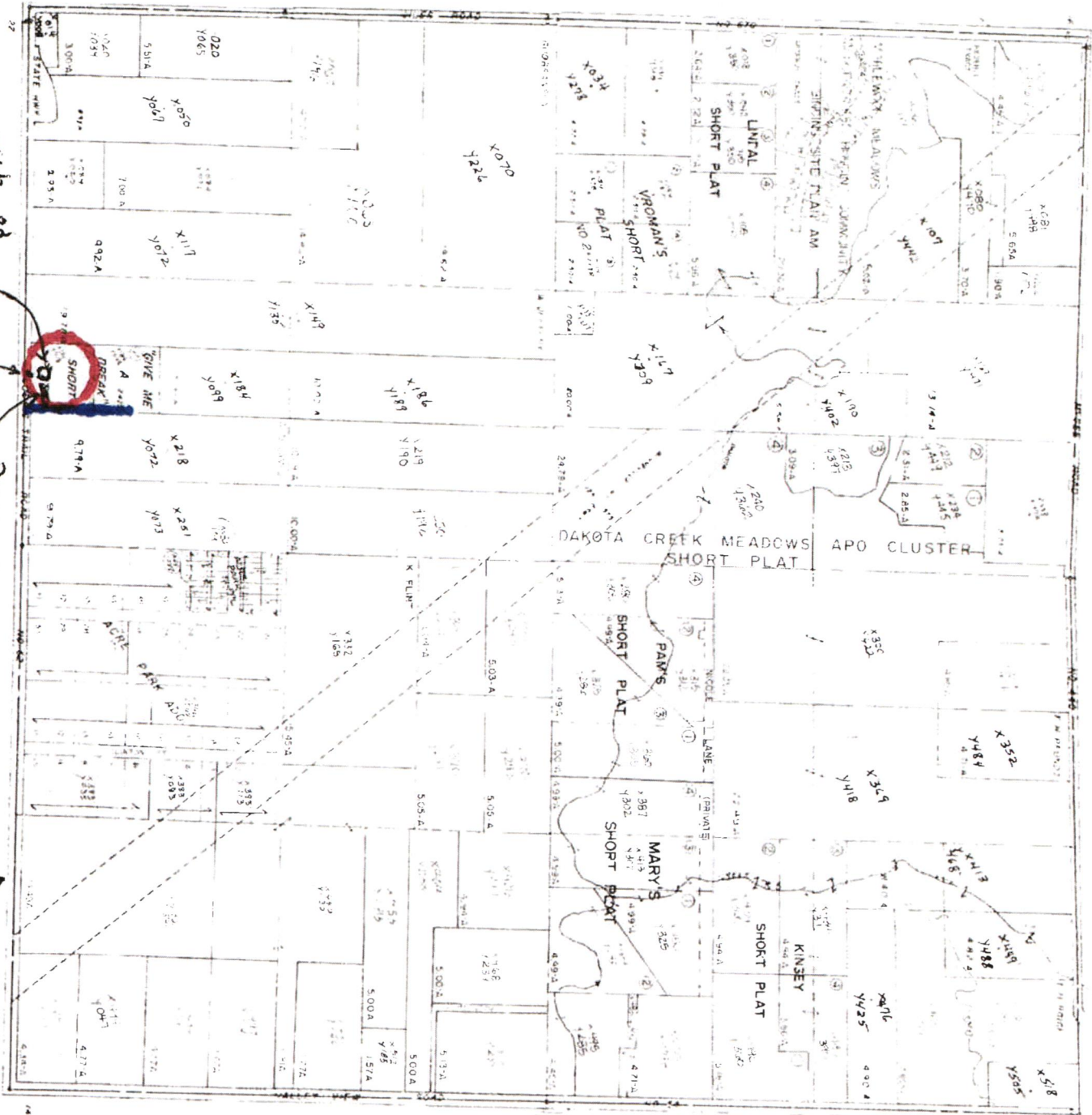
Sincerely:

Frank S. Tapley.

Ph: 360-332-7956



# M A P



35th Tr. Rd → House  
 Loomis Tr. Rd → Power pole  
 Driveway

← Loomis Trail Rd

TOWNSHIP 40  
 RANGE 1E  
 SECTION 15  
 MAP NO. 01  
 SCALE 1" = 400'  
 DATE 8/15/63  
 REVISED 7 Dec 2016  
 Assessor's Dept  
 Winston Co.



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**From:** Esther Miranda  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 9:10 AM  
**To:** Douglas Ranney  
**Subject:** FW: ROAD NANE PROJECT RN19-05 - LOOMIS TRAIL LANE

Hi Doug,

See the response below in regards to whether or not Mr. Frank Tapley will need to change his address to Loomis Trail Lane.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
~Esther

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**From:** Wilson, Robert A. [mailto:[rwilson@cob.org](mailto:rwilson@cob.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 9:04 AM  
**To:** Turner, Coni J.; Esther Miranda  
**Subject:** RE: ROAD NANE PROJECT RN19-05

Hi Esther,

I agree with Coni. First responders will no longer be looking for that house to be on Loomis Trail. The access to the home is now off of Loomis Trail Lane. Also, looking at the picture below, I'm not sure the house can even be seen from Loomis Trail Rd..

If they keep the Loomis Trail Rd. address there will be confusion and delay in an emergency. They need to switch to Loomis Trail Lane.

Rob

Robert A. Wilson  
Division Chief - Communications  
City of Bellingham Fire Dept.  
[rwilson@cob.org](mailto:rwilson@cob.org)  
(360) 778-8432

My incoming and outgoing email messages are subject to public disclosure requirements per RCW 42.56

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**From:** Turner, Coni J.  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2019 2:37 PM  
**To:** Esther Miranda <[EMiranda@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:EMiranda@co.whatcom.wa.us)>; Wilson, Robert A. <[rwilson@cob.org](mailto:rwilson@cob.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: ROAD NANE PROJECT RN19-05

I remember having an issue similar to this a while back. We did recommend that they change their address since it is off of the private drive, NOT the main road.

I think the same stands here. Rob?

I included a picture. The lot in question is circled. It is hard to see from this, but their driveway does come off of the private roadway.





**Coni Turner**

GIS Analyst, MSAG Coordinator  
WhatComm 911 Center



620 Alabama St, Bellingham, WA 98225  
360-778-8907  
[cturner@cob.org](mailto:cturner@cob.org)

My incoming and outgoing email messages are subject to public disclosure requirements per RCW 42.56

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**From:** Esther Miranda <[EMiranda@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:EMiranda@co.whatcom.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2019 3:54 PM  
**To:** Turner, Coni J. <[cturner@cob.org](mailto:cturner@cob.org)>; Wilson, Robert A. <[rwilson@cob.org](mailto:rwilson@cob.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: ROAD NANE PROJECT RN19-05

Hi Coni & Rob,

Question for you...

We just completed a road name project off of Loomis Trail Rd. Everyone that accesses this road was okay with the change except for Mr. Tapley.

He would like to keep his old address as his driveway access is less than 100ft away from Loomis Trail Rd.

The new road name is Loomis Trail Lane and will go in effect on June 1.

Your thoughts and input is much appreciated.

~Esther

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**From:** Douglas Ranney  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2019 3:35 PM  
**To:** Esther Miranda  
**Subject:** RE: ROAD NANE PROJECT RN19-05

Esther,

Please contact EMS for their opinion on this specific situation to put in the file. Do they feel that Mr. Tapley should change his address?

Thanks,

Doug

-DOUGLAS W RANNEY II, P.E., F.E.S. & P.

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**From:** Esther Miranda  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2019 2:33 PM  
**To:** Douglas Ranney  
**Subject:** FW: ROAD NANE PROJECT RN19-05

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**From:** Esther Miranda  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2019 3:36 PM  
**To:** 'Frank Tapley'  
**Subject:** RE: ROAD NANE PROJECT RN19-05

Dear Mr. Frank,

Thank you for your email. We tried reaching you many times at your phone number listed below with no success or option to leave a voice message.

We appreciate your submittal for a road name consideration. EMS/Fire also has a preference for Loomis Trail Lane. Per Whatcom County Code (WCC) 12.60.050, road names are required for all public roads and **private roads** now existing or hereafter created when such roads:

- Are any length and serve five or more lots; or
- Are 1,000 feet or greater in length serve three or more lots.

The private road you currently use measures 1,800 feet and services 6 lots, and thus falls under the criteria of requiring a road name. As mentioned in our second letter, regardless of the distance of your driveway access off Loomis Trail Road, you still access the same private driveway to get to your home. Therefore, your address must be changed along with everyone using the same private road.

We understand you've lived at this location for many years before Whatcom County Engineering was tasked with going through the County to correct and assign address numbers and road names where required. We recognize and apologize for the inconvenience of changing your address. If you still feel your road should not be named at all, please see the following steps below to make an appeal.

#### **APPEALS PROCEDURES**

1. Appellant shall, within three weeks of the third notification in the road name process, submit a letter or some sort of documentation explaining their reasons for the appeal to Public Works (PW) Engineering Department.
2. Within 14 calendar days of receipt of the Appeal, it will be forwarded to the Whatcom County Council.
3. At the County Council's direction, PW Engineering Department will inform you of any public hearing regarding the appeal.

Mr. Frank, we appreciate your understanding and participation in this road naming process.

Regards,

~Esther

*Esther Miranda*

Addressing Clerk – Engineering Services  
Whatcom County Public Works  
5280 Northwest Drive | Bellingham, WA 98226  
Direct: 360.778.6237

NOTE: Incoming and outgoing emails may be subject to public disclosure and/or records retention requirements pursuant to the Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).



**Whatcom County Code Title 12 Roads and Bridges  
Chapter 12.60 Road Naming System**

**12.60.040 Appointment and responsibilities of the citizen address and road name appeals committee.**

A. The county council shall appoint a citizen address and road name appeals committee, hereinafter called the citizen appeals committee, of five members representing the diversity of Whatcom County residents. Committee members shall serve three-year overlapping terms and shall be eligible for reappointment.

B. The responsibilities of the citizen appeals committee shall be as follows:

1. Consider and decide appeals of address numbering, and road name assignments and corrections;
2. Review and decide appeals in enacting the policies and procedures of this chapter;
3. Develop a list of preapproved road names from which applicants may choose;
4. May propose changes or additions in the county's address numbering, road naming, and sign policy.

C. Decisions by the citizen appeals committee may be appealed to the county council. (Ord. 2014-045 Exh. A; Ord. 96-049).

**12.60.050 Requirement for road name.**

A. Road names shall be required for all public roads and private roads now existing or hereafter created when such roads:

1. Are any length and serve five or more lots; or
2. Are 1,000 feet or greater in length and serve three or more lots.

B. Roads that are not required to be named per subsection A of this section may also be named at the unanimous request of all the property owners served by the road when said road serves three or four existing lots. (Ord. 2014-045 Exh. A; Ord. 96-049).