



MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom County Council, as Citizen Address and Road Name Appeals Committee

From: Doug Ranney, P.E., Engineering Manager
Esther Miranda, Addressing Clerk

CC: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director
Jim P. Karcher, County Engineer

Date: April 6, 2021

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

In the absence of a Citizen's Address and Road Naming Appeals Committee, citizen appeals are forwarded directly to County Council for consideration. Mr. Pete Jones has submitted an appeal to Engineering Services' requirement for the road name change of the private road he uses to access his property, currently 309 Marine Drive.

Pursuant to Whatcom County Code 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.

This private road meets these criteria.

Mr. Jones shares a private road with several other homes whose addresses will all be changed as a result of the road name change. Mr. Jones and the residents feel their private road should not be named and their addresses not changed. Please see attached statements for their arguments.

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 citizen appeal, uphold the determination that the private road be named and subject properties be re-addressed and direct Public Works to proceed with the road naming and readdressing action. Alternatively, the Council may elect to hold a public hearing prior to making a determination.

The Councilmembers are reminded that, at their discretion, they may ask Council staff to fill the Appeals Committee and future appeals will not immediately be presented to Council for decision.

Esther Miranda

From: pejones@pointroberts.net
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:30 PM
To: Esther Miranda; PublicWorks; Engineering
Cc: Bryan@bryanlanelaw.com; jfraser@lexaslaw.com; pejones@pointroberts.net; bwbakk@gmail.com; warren@vpacconstruction.com; cmanrell@telus.net; prprty@whidbey.com; Eric.beckwitt@freightera.com; Peter.Vaughan-Jones@alaskaair.com
Subject: Road Name Change -Project RN#: RN21-01

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

March 15, 2021

VIA EMAIL

WHATCOM COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

5280 Northwest Drive

Bellingham, WA

98226

Attn: Jon Hutchings, Director

James P. Karcher, PE

Esther Miranda, Addressing Clerk

RE: Road Name Change - Road Name Project RN#: RN21-01

Dear Sirs/Madam,

In response to your letter dated February 23rd, 2021, regarding naming our "Private Road", the residents listed below, located at 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311 & 313 Marine Drive, Point Roberts, WA 98281, unanimously object to this proposed action. The "Private Road" as stated in your letter is actually a recorded easement that is not considered a private road as it has no designation as such, no separate tax

parcel number and no legal title. Our easement was created & recorded over 40 years ago as depicted on many surveys. As of March 15th, 2021, several of the residents listed below that are affected by this proposed action have not even received proper notification as they are Canadians and as such cannot cross the closed/restricted U.S. Border crossing and access their properties or collect their mail.

Your letter also states, "This action is in response to the need for emergency services to quickly locate and respond to residences in your area". In fact, the proposed action and this purported need is, according to the Whatcom County Fire Chief District #5, Christopher Carleton, completely unnecessary and unsupportable. Our local Firemen are very familiar with our current community and address situation which, already, is easily identifiable and key to quick response times. The current map used by Fire/Rescue is both easy to read and accurate - changing addresses and adding street names in our small community that has little to no growth and limited land available on a peninsula of only five square miles would only add confusion, not to say significant expense and inconvenience. We, as a community, have had our share of Fire/Rescue calls over the years, none of which were hindered in any way by having a "Marine Drive" address or nonsequential address numbers.

If Whatcom County proceeds in enforcing a named street address change upon us, where it is deemed not wanted or warranted by your own Whatcom County Fire Chief as identified by you as the reason for this action, we will also assume that Whatcom County will bear the responsibility of perfecting the survey, compensating for land expropriation, creating an actual "Private Road" and maintaining it. Furthermore, if we are unsuccessful in obtaining a permanent exemption from this action under ORD 96-049, we will take whatever legal action is necessary to guarantee that all costs associated with land use and/or purchases, re-conveyances, documentation changes regarding Titles, Wills, Trusts and any and all personal expenses associated with the street naming and address change put forth are brought to bear on Whatcom County.

The Residents at 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311 & 313 Marine Drive, Point Roberts, WA 98281, are requesting an exemption from Whatcom County ORD 96-049. It is neither wanted nor warranted in our neighborhood for the reasons stated above.

Residents,

Jim Julius and Maureen Stevens	301 Marine Drive
Jeffrey and Ruth Fraser	303 Marine Drive
Pete and Lynnell Vaughan-Jones	309 Marine Drive
Tod Manrell	311 Marine Drive
Warren and Britini Bakk	305 & 307 Marine Drive
Eric Beckwitt and Yevgeniya Ponarina	313 Marine Drive

Marine Drive – Pt. Roberts 300 Block

On the date of February 23, 2021, a customer service representative with PSE requested address verification on the 300 block of Marine Dr. Though addresses were verified as valid, observations were taken on the out of sequence numbering.

Per WC Ordinance 12.60.110, address corrections was initiated. The current numbering does not leave room for minor corrections. Re-assigning addresses to another customer would cause more confusion and goes against USPS policy as old addresses are linked to new assigned addresses.

Naming the private road enables assignment of new numbers, providing a clean and an accurate numbering system, leaving room for future addresses for the current empty parcels.

Current Addressing

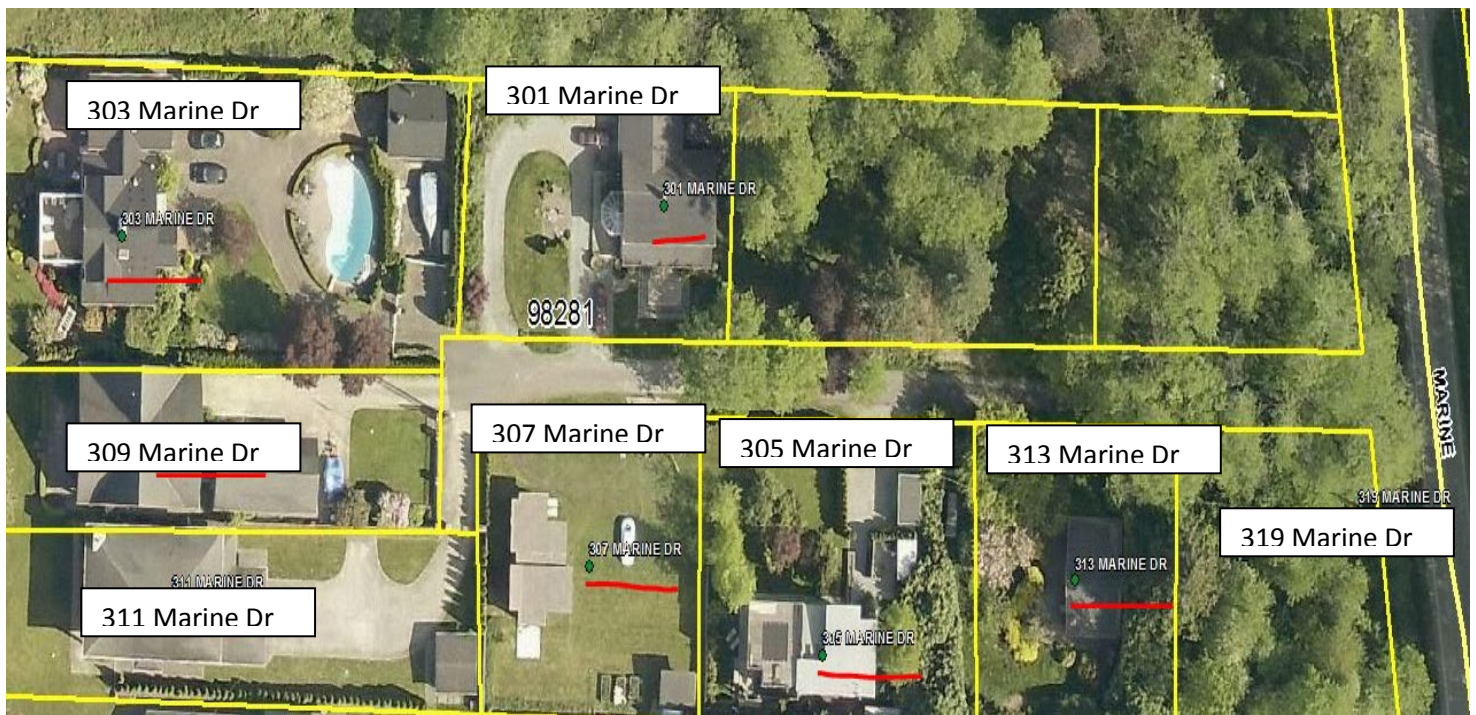


Figure 1