

21 September 2018

To: Miss Annie Hiller, Planner
City of Bainbridge Island
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Re: OLSEN/BUTLER RUE APPLICATION PLN51183RUE

Dear Ms. Hillier,

I am writing in support of the above-referenced application by Butler and Olsen.

In the years since I have been here (beginning 1975) I have seen phenomenal changes in the Fort Ward Neighborhood. And change can be scary. The plat which was created in 1960 is now reaching build-out. When the new sewer plant was completed in 1996 and a rush of building took place, I myself found the rate and scope of the change difficult to cope with.

However, the reborn Fort Ward has turned out to be a diverse and interesting community. We have many families with young children. Many of those children and their parent ferry commuters use enhanced (no mud) Belfair/Soundview drive as a cut-through to Fort Ward Hill Road and its bus stops. I am impressed with the care with which Crosby Olsen and Amy Butler have made provision for the safety of pedestrians passing by his proposed lot/home with their intention to erect a split rail fence separating vehicle and foot traffic.

Fort Ward is one of the few neighborhoods affordable for young families. Mr. Olsen is a dedicated professional and a nature-lover. His plans for wetland protection/enhancement (as aided by biologist Joanne Bartlett) go beyond what is required. Captain James Olsen and myself, Crosby Olsen's parents, have planted hundreds of trees on our eight Fort Ward lots. Crosby has been inspired by our example.

Young Mr. Olsen also respects the remaining virgin wetlands and forest in the area, having enjoyed playing there with neighborhood children for his entire childhood. Beyond this, when he was a young student he was hired to water the now verdant grass field on the Fort Ward Parade Ground. Mr. Olsen and Mrs. Butler are well aware of the difference between invasive plants (Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, etc) and native plants (cedar, Indian plum, Oregon grape, etc.) and share a commitment to treat each of the two categories as required to promote a healthy environment.

Now he seeks to house his young family of four on a lot with more than adequate room for house, wetland, and driveway. The care taken by his hired wetland expert demonstrates a dedication to wetland preservation, use of pervious surfaces, and an actual increase in the trees-shrubs-grasses, etc. As a neighborhood, we welcome newcomers and enjoy being a Bainbridge locale which is reasonably affordable, especially for a family like Mr. Olsen's, building their own house.

Numerous 1960 plat lots have been granted reasonable use exemption. The Butler-Olsen proposal is worthy of the same.

Thank you for your attention.

Mary Victoria Dombrowski
2412 Soundview Drive NE
Bainbridge Island WA 98110