March 8, 2021

Stevensville Town Council Members Dempsey Vick, Jaime Develin, Patrick Shourd, Paul Ludington

Dear Council Members,

I live in Creekside Meadows as you may know and have been alarmed for some time about the density of the Burnt Fork Estates (BFE) proposed subdivision. I feel so let down by the town administration to protect the beauty, historic value, and specialness of our community when the subdivision’s application was accepted lacking detail and honest assumptions with regard to the impact of such a huge project. We don’t have to solve Missoula’s bedroom community problems. Stevensville can retain its specialness if you four members will do your job to protect the community from developers who appear to have profit-driven motivations. You’ve been swayed by the developer’s consultant who also chairs the town Planning & Zoning Board to think this can all work fine. Even with recusal the consultant has been involved in meetings with more time to soft talk the plan versus comments from the public which I feel were cut short.

I looked at your Code of Conduct and two statements struck me with their importance:

“Inspire public confidence in Stevensville Town government”.

“Study thoroughly”.

At the introduction the following quote: “Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.” Mark Twain

I’m asking each of you before your decision on March 11, 2021 to walk your wards, wear a mask, knock on doors, ask residents what their opinions are on BFE. You represent the citizens of Stevensville and should value their views and suggestions. You have a heavy decision to make and I hope you will come to the conclusion this subdivision should be denied or downsized to properly fit in the town. Page 15 of the town growth policy says, “In the absence of good land use planning and good urban design a town can lose its center, its character, and its soul.” Please don’t let down the residents of Stevensville.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Wolff

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