



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

Date Mailed:

APR 1 2 2005

Action: Approved Staff
Recommendation
Motion of Commissioner Perdue,
seconded by Commissioner Robinson
with a vote of 4 – 0.
Commissioners Perdue, Bryant,
Wellington and Robinson voting in
favor. Chairman Berlage abstained
from voting based on his absence from
a portion of the hearing.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD OPINION

Preliminary Plan 1-05005

NAME OF PLAN: Macon Construction

APR 1 2 2005

The date of this written opinion is ______ (which is the date that this opinion is mailed to all parties of record). Any party authorized by law to take an administrative appeal must initiate such an appeal within thirty days of the date of this written opinion, consistent with the procedural rules for the judicial review of administrative agency decisions in Circuit Court (Rule 7-203, Maryland Rules of Court - State).

On 7/8/04, Macon Construction, Inc. submitted an application for the approval of a preliminary plan of subdivision of property in the R-60 zone. The application proposed to create 3 lots and one outlot on 1.48 acres of land zoned R-60 located on the east side of Metropolitan Avenue, immediately north of Capitol View Avenue (MD192), in the Kensington/Wheaton-Capitol View Sector plan area. The application was designated Preliminary Plan 1-05005. On 2/17/05, Preliminary Plan 1-05005 was brought before

Macon Construction Preliminary Plan 1-05005 Page 3

The preliminary forest conservation plan (FCP) proposes to clear about 0.36 acre of forest. About 0.76 acre of forest will be retained and will be placed in a Category I conservation easement.

Staff's review of Preliminary Plan #1-05005, Macon Construction, indicated that the plan conforms to the recommendations of the Capitol View Sector Plan and The Master Plan for Communities of Kensington-Wheaton. The proposed preliminary plan is consistent with the master plan goal to maintain the area's residential character. Staff recommended to the Board that the proposed preliminary plan complies with Chapter 50 of the Montgomery County Code, Subdivision Regulations, in that public facilities will be adequate to support and service the area of the proposed subdivision. Staff further concluded that the size, width, shape, and orientation of the proposed lots are appropriate for the location of the subdivision.

At the public hearing staff testified and recommended approval of the preliminary plan, subject to conditions. The applicant appeared, represented by legal counsel, and agreed with staff's recommendation of approval and the conditions submitted for Board approval (revised conditions dated February 17, 2005).

A neighbor appeared to testify on behalf of herself and on behalf of the adjoining property owner of Lot 11. The testimony raised concerns about forest and tree loss and testified in support of staff's recommendations regarding forest conservation, and raised questions about the condition of reservation for Capital View Avenue. In response to Boardmember inquiries, legal counsel to the Planning Board confirmed that placing the right-of-way for Capital View and Meredith Avenues merely precluded the developer from building within those rights-of-way for up to three years, while the public transportation agencies make a determination as to whether they intend to acquire the right-of-way.

The speaker also testified that the owner of Lot 11 did not receive notice of the public hearing. During rebuttal, the applicant testified that it made efforts two weeks prior to the public hearing through telephone calls (which received no answer), mail and electronic mail. In response to Board inquiries, staff testified that they sent notice in accordance with the Planning Board's Rules of Procedure, and staff subsequently spoke with the property owner, who stated that his mailing address on the letter was for Kensington, when his address should be Silver Spring. After the telephone conversation, staff facsimiled a copy of the notice after their conversation, and in response to Planning Board questions confirmed that the facsimile was sent less than 10 days before the hearing (as is required by the Planning Board's Rules of Procedure). In response to additional questioning, staff stated that the property owner did not ask for any deferral or continuance of the hearing, and submitted a letter into the record expressing his concerns.

- 1) Limit the preliminary plan to three single-family residential lots and one outlot.
- 2) Compliance with the conditions of approval for the preliminary forest conservation plan including preparation of a detailed tree protection plan and an on-site management plan for non-native, invasive plant species. The applicant must satisfy all conditions prior to recording of plat(s) or MCDPS issuance of sediment and erosion control permits.
- 3) At the time of Historic Area Work Permit review for any construction on Lots 1, 2 or 3, and any future construction on Outlot A if it is converted into a lot, the applicant will submit the following to Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Commission staff:
 - a) a full tree survey prepared by a certified arborist, indicating size, species, health and location of all trees greater than 6" in diameter;
 - b) a detailed grading plan for the lot(s); and
 - c) a tree save plan prepared by a certified arborist identifying necessary tree protection measures.

No issuance of building permits prior to approval of the tree save plan.

- 4) Prior to record plat the owner will sign an agreement with the Historic Preservation Commission to outline a short-term renovation/stabilization plan for the Historic Dwyer House, and a long-term timeline for the entire site including timing for the new construction and the rehabilitation of the Dwyer House.
- 5) Place in involuntary reservation on proposed Lots 1, 2 and 3 the master plan right-of-way for relocated Capitol View Avenue, for a period not to exceed three years from the date of preliminary plan approval or until a determination is made whether the right-of-way will be acquired, whichever occurs earlier. No structural improvements may be made within the reservation area during the reservation period.
- 6) Place Outlot A containing the master plan right-of-way for relocated Capitol View Avenue and the possible extension or terminus of Meredith Avenue in involuntary reservation for a period not to exceed three years from the date of preliminary plan approval or until a determination is made whether a portion of the Outlot will be acquired, whichever occurs earlier. No structural improvements may be made within the reservation area during the reservation period.
- 7) Record plat shall contain a note stipulating that Lot 3 may not be reduced in size in the future, except to permit the reserved right-of-way for relocated Capitol View Avenue at the rear of the lot to be used in the event that this road is constructed.

CERTIFICATION OF BOARD ADOPTION OF OPINION

At its regular meeting, held on **Thursday, March 31, 2005**, in Silver Spring, Maryland, the Montgomery County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, by unanimous consent ADOPTED the above Opinion which constitutes the final decision of the Planning Board and memorializes the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law for **Preliminary Plan No. 1-05005, Macon Construction**. Commissioner Perdue was absent. Chairman Berlage abstained.

Certification As To Vote of Adoption

E. Ann Daly, Technical Writer