

Nonprofit appeals Cannon Beach dune-grading permit

Public hearing addresses issue

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Cannon Beach was “sloppy” and “vague” when it issued a dune-grading permit to the Breakers Point Homeowners Association, according to Oregon Coast Alliance director Cameron La Follette.

In August, the alliance filed an administrative appeal to the city’s decision to issue the permit, which was designed to remove windblown sand.

A public hearing on the appeal will be heard Thursday before the Planning Commission.

In July, the city approved an application for remedial dune grading to remove sand building up on lawns and the irrigation system.

In filing her appeal to the city’s approval, La Follette said she would like the Planning Commission to “get answers from the city and direct the city to make the permit more specific.”

“Because the shoreline is always moving, changing and is utterly dynamic, it’s important that permits be specific and sensitive to community values,” La Follette said.

Though Oregon Coast Alliance does not oppose remedial dune grading, the group is concerned that the sand removal permit could be construed as an “open-ended permit allowing for a great deal of sand removal.”

The nonprofit stated that the application did not include a time frame, proof of sand inundation as required by zoning ordinance, an estimate of amounts to be graded and the project’s potential impact on the Ecola Creek estuary.

“It is incumbent on the



EO MEDIA GROUP/FILE PHOTO

A dune-grading permit issued to Breakers Point is being challenged.

‘It is incumbent on the applicant to be direct and specific, and incumbent on city administration to be specific.’

Cameron La Follette
director of Oregon Coast Alliance

applicant to be direct and specific, and incumbent on city administration to be specific,” La Follette said. “It is not appropriate for Cannon Beach or any other city to issue a permit that is vague in so many ways.”

According to the permit approval, the sand will be disposed on an eroding section of the Ecola Creek shoreline near the southwest corner of the

property. Conditions include that all areas left bare of vegetation should be stabilized and revegetated. The proposal is not expected to negatively affect adjacent properties.

Remedial dune grading is permitted to clear sand inundating houses, commercial buildings and associated improvements. Sand may be graded up to 35 feet from the building’s foundation, subject

to conditions.

Earlier this month, the City Council approved a separate conditional use dune-grading permit for Breakers Point. The association’s permit allows for grading 1.42 acres of about 13,700 cubic yards of sand from dunes west of the condominiums. Before grading starts, the permit must be approved by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Friday, Sept. 30
Cannon Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee, 10 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Oct. 4
Cannon Beach City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Monday, Oct. 10
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.

Tuesday, Oct. 11
Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Oct. 18
Cannon Beach Public Works Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Thursday, Oct. 20
Cannon Beach Parks Committee, 9 a.m., 163 E. Gower St.

Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Thursday, Oct. 27
Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Friday, Oct. 28
Cannon Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee, 10 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Monday, Nov. 7
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.

Tuesday, Nov. 15
Cannon Beach Public Works

Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Thursday, Nov. 17
Cannon Beach Parks Committee, 9 a.m., 163 E. Gower St.

Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Dec. 6
Cannon Beach City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Monday, Dec. 12
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.

Tuesday, Dec. 13
Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Thursday, Dec. 15
Cannon Beach Parks Committee, 9 a.m., 163 E. Gower St.

Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Dec. 20
Cannon Beach Public Works Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

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