

Former paving plant owners seek to fill a housing need

Gearhart mulls zone change on Palmberg land

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

A proposed zone change for 29.5 acres at 498 McCormick Gardens Road went before the Gearhart Planning Commission on Sept. 13.

The zone change, from Rural Agricultural to Residential-2, could lead to the development of 10 lots, with single and multifamily housing.

Owner John Palmberg of Palmberg Paving Co. said a development would be “good for the community.”

“We’d be happy to see something developed there, some nice housing, because Gearhart certainly needs it,” Palmberg said at the meeting. “We’d like to see something built there that we can be proud of.”

But neighbors on Pacific Way and McCormick Gardens Road turned out to express concerns over potential



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Lake on the Palmberg property in Gearhart.

flooding, wildlife impacts, traffic and livability.

Residential plan

The process to develop the property started about 18 months ago, City Planner Carole Connell said at the commission meeting.

Owners are interested in a zone change to make the property marketable for sale, she said.

Consultants provided details on impacts on traffic, wetlands and other resources, including the geology of the property and environmental impacts from

the Department of Environmental Quality.

If rezoned, OTAK consultant Li Alligood said on behalf of the owners, the property could offer 10 parcels.

With rezoning, a flood plain and wetlands on the property would limit houses to about 7.5 acres or 20 percent of the site. With six units per acre, 42 units could be added.

Concerns

Neighbors in opposition to the plan pointed to traffic concerns, wildlife use and high water on the road in heavy rains.

“I abide by the rules, others (should) abide by the rules,” Hebert said.

Susan Lemas of Pacific Way said the site often flooded during rains, and she was concerned adding more houses “would make flooding worse.”

Added traffic was also a concern. “The roads aren’t built for that,” Lemas said.

Property owner Gloria Edler asked that the property retain its agricultural zoning. “We’re agricultural out here. We don’t need high density. It’s not made for that.”

“I want it to stay the way it was when I moved there,” she added. “This is what we moved here for 50 years ago.”

To be continued

Criteria for a decision are based on the city’s comprehensive plan, neighborhood housing types and cooperation with the county’s Regional Housing Authority to ensure affordable housing in the Gearhart area.

The commission would refer a recommendation to the City Council, which could approve or reject the zone change. If a development is pro-

posed, it will again go before the commission for review.

Future approvals will require a look at roads, fire access approval and other permits, Connell said. “These issues will come later with a development proposal.”

In a submission to the Planning Commission, the Fair Housing Council said the plan will need a revision of the city’s buildable lands inventory or housing needs analysis, last updated in 1990.

The Oregon Coast Alliance, in a letter from executive director Cameron La Follette, asked the commission to deny the rezoning request and enter negotiations with the owners for purchase of the entire 27 acres as a regional park.

“That would protect the wetlands, prevent any further spread of contaminated soils, buffer the low-density zoning on county-zoned lands to the east, and protect Gearhart’s integrity by not allowing yet more unnecessary high-end housing at the edge of town,” La Follette wrote.

The Planning Commission voted to continue the hearing until Oct. 11.

‘Sign the Surfboard’ comes to Seaside

Seaside Surf Shop, Oregon Surf Adventures make statement

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Members of Seaside’s surfing community let their voices be heard as they joined the Surfrider Foundation in a business alliance to oppose to offshore oil drilling.

On Monday, Sept. 17, Dennis Smith, co-owner and founder of Seaside Surf Shop and Lauren Ahlgren of Oregon Surf Adventures put their signatures on a surfboard signed by business owners throughout the Pacific Coast.

The surfboard has traveled through coastal communities, with members of the Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast signing the surfboard as it travels north.

“This is our livelihood, and our lifestyle,” Smith said. “Obviously our livelihood requires clean water. We would



R.J. MARX

Dennis Smith of Seaside Surf Shop signs a surfboard in opposition to drilling on the Pacific Coast.

never want to see anything that could potentially damage that.”

The aim of the signature drive, Surfrider’s Jocelyn Enevoldsen said, is to show opposition to a federal administration proposal to open 90 percent of U.S. waters, including the Pacific Coast, to new oil and gas drilling.

“This is a petition from all of our West Coast communities saying we don’t want drilling in our Pacific — not here, not now, no way, no how.”

The proposal threatens both

the health of the marine environment and the many coastal businesses and industries that depend upon it for survival, Enevoldsen said.

No new oil leases have been offered off the Pacific coast since 1984, but the federal proposal calls for seven from 2019 to 2024.

The surfboard, donated by Firewire Surfboards, began its journey in San Diego in March.

It’s headed up the entire West Coast and all along the way, local business owners are

signing the surfboard, which is symbolic of them joining a coalition of more than 1,000 business owners who are opposed to offshore drilling in the Pacific.

In spring of 2019, the surfboard and its signatures head to Washington, D.C., and to Ryan Zinke who is head of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In Oregon, the cities of Port Orford, Newport, Lincoln City, Toledo, Yachats, and Gold Beach have passed resolutions opposing the proposal. The Siletz Tribal Council and Ports of Toledo and Newport have also passed resolutions.

How imminent is oil and natural gas drilling in the Pacific?

“It’s hard to say,” Enevoldsen said. “We’re living in some pretty wild times. It’s important for us to speak up and come together and speak up and represent our ocean values. The exploration phase hasn’t started and hopefully won’t, given the strong opposition we’ve seen from West Coast business owners.”

In Gearhart, beach now accessible to all

After donation, visitors may now borrow wheelchairs

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Following Seaside’s lead, Gearhart accepted the donation of a beach wheelchair from Randy Anderson.

Early this summer, Anderson teamed with Seaside’s Sunset Empire Park and Recreation to make wheelchairs available to visitors who otherwise might not be able to enjoy access closer to the water.

In July, Anderson appealed to the city of Gearhart to make a similar service available, and the City Council unanimously endorsed the plan.

With a donated wheelchair and administration provided by Gearhart by the Sea, the only cost incurred

to the city is a \$13 per month insurance policy, according to City Administrator Chad Sweet.

The first wheelchair is now available for visitors, managed Gearhart by the Sea and stored at their North Marion location in McMenamans.

The wheelchair will be stored in the lobby of the office, with a sign saying that it is available for rental, front desk manager Tami Gandy said.

Users will sign a waiver and go directly to the beach via the 10th Street access road.

While Gandy said she hadn’t had experience with this type of wheelchair, one was used at her sister’s wedding in South Carolina to assist a family member. “They were marvelous to work with,” she said. “We’re excited to have this program and we’re hopeful to have another one as soon as possible.”

POLICE LOG

Sept. 9
12:15 a.m., 300 block S. Wahanna: A person is arrested and charged with disorderly conduct in the second degree.

1:15 a.m., N. Downing: A person is arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicants.

4:22 p.m., 1200 block S. Wahanna: The parents of a child accused of trying to light a car on fire are contacted. Parents and child are put in contact with another agency.

Sept. 10
2:03 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

10:09 p.m., 200 block N. Downing: A person is charged with assault in the fourth degree and harassment.

Sept. 11
11:32 p.m., 800 block S. Holladay: Neighbors having a loud party agree to shut it down after being advised of a complaint.

Sept. 12
2:15 p.m., 2100 block Lewis and Clark: A person is arrested and charged with coercion and tampering with a witness.

5:45 p.m., 300 block S. Wahanna: Rape in the third degree is reported.

Sept. 13
8:20 a.m., 12th and Prom: Police are contacted to conduct a welfare check on a student who has not been to school. The family is transient and police were unable to locate the student or the family.

Sept. 14
3:19 p.m., 700 block Avenue Q:

A child reported missing was reunited with its family.

9:41 p.m., Skate Park: A person is arrested and charged with harassment and coercion.

Sept. 15
10:40 a.m., Broadway: Complainant reports three male teens leaving a restaurant after failing to pay their check for \$54.10. They were described as wearing hoodies; one with an American flag on the chest and another an Adidas logo. As the incident had occurred two hours earlier, police were unable to locate.

3:04 p.m., Broadway: Complainant reports four individuals walking out of a restaurant without paying their \$49.55 bill. The restaurant is turning over video footage to police.

10:25 p.m., The Prom: A person is arrested and charged

with disorderly conduct and attempting to resist arrest.

11:32 p.m., Hemlock: Caller reports a person standing in the middle of the street, screaming. Police contact the person and advise them to take their medication.

Sept. 16
11:45 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: Property crimes are reported.

Sept. 17
9:47 a.m., Broadway: Police respond to a report of a road struck dog; the body is taken to a veterinary clinic for disposal.

1:08 p.m., Police headquarters:

A person comes in to register as a sex offender.

7:02 p.m., 3200 block Bayview Terrace: Telephone harassment is reported.

Sept. 18
3:28 p.m., Avenue U and the Prom: Kidnapping and robbery are reported.

Sept. 19
6:43 a.m., Sewer Treatment Plant: A deceased person is reported.

11:39 p.m., 1500 block Lea Way: A person is arrested and charged with methamphetamine; criminal trespass; and burglary.

Sept. 20
1:32 a.m., 1900 block S. Edgewood: A bat reported inside a residence left of its own accord prior to police arrival.

2:52 a.m., 700 block S. Wahanna: A person is arrested and charged with criminal trespass; harassment; and assaulting a public safety officer.

11:30 a.m., Quatat Park: A person is arrested on a warrant and subsequently charged with disorderly conduct.

12:03 p.m., 1000 block Holladay Drive: A missing person is reported.

2:45 p.m., Hemlock: A missing person is reported.



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