

6-11-19
Public

Howard Dent My wife and I own a home on Banks O'Dee Road in Newburg, MD

I tried to testify remotely at the Swan Point hearing in May, and although I could hear Ms. DeSoto telling me to turn on my mic, none of the buttons worked. I'll give that testimony tonight.

I want to take you back to the Planning Commission Meeting for the APF for Swan Point Road on November 18, 2019. I testified at that meeting that I thought Swan Point Road was inadequate, because in a category 2 storm, the surge would be six feet and the road would be under water. I also questioned why there was only one way in and out, which is inconsistent with subdivision regulations. There was quite a discussion among the Planning Commissioners about the safety and adequacy of Swan Point Road. I encourage everyone to watch that meeting.

Then Planning Director Jason Groth stated that this was "special case" and that Swan Point Road was required to have a paved 10 foot shoulder on each side of the road as mitigation for only having one entrance. That requirement is in the existing Docket 250. The revision removes that requirement. Mr. Groth also said that concerns about flooding would be addressed in the future and seemed to assure all that the road was safe.

Well, the future is here.

The revisions to Docket 250 say the road "will be improved by raising the centerline road elevation to an elevation of six and one-half feet. The existing road paving width will be raised and the shoulders on each side of the roadway will be two feet."

What happened to the 10 foot paved shoulders that were the mitigation for only having one entry? They're gone. That space will be used for the slope to the 6 1/2 foot elevation. So it seems

requirement to mitigate for a 6 foot storm surge. It's not one or the other; it's both.

And Swan Point plans to add up to 1500 more units, using an inadequate road as the only access, inconsistent with the subdivision regulations?

Has the Army Corp of Engineers weighed in on this road? If the idea is to build up the road to be above 6 feet of surge, where is that water going to go in a hurricane? Can you ensure that this plan will do no harm to my property?

Please have the Army Corps of Engineers look at this proposed road, and then schedule a second hearing to discuss their findings and incorporate them into Docket 250.

Given the turnout and concerns voiced at Commissioner Bowling's recent town hall, it's clear that Docket 250 needs to be sent back to the Planning Commission and the developer for further clarifications and revisions.

And what happened to the mixed use, the shops and restaurants? Is this just another tract development where the county will have to raise taxes on us to subsidize a developer?