

Jason Sullivan

From: Clark, Amos [Clark@johnrmcadams.com]
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2006 1:49 PM
To: jason.sullivan@ncmail.net; keith.megginson@ncmail.net
Subject: Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

Thank you both for taking the time to meet with us on Monday regarding the proposed Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance for Chatham County.

After discussing this internally and with Jason Sullivan via phone yesterday, we would like to recommend the following change to the text as it is currently proposed. This would allow for pedestrian bridges in floodplains to provide for the types of natural experiences that everyone agrees is the purpose of the trails.

Currently, Article 5, Section A, item 15 reads:

"Pedestrian bridges shall have a travel way a minimum height of one (1) foot above the base flood elevation."

In our meeting on Monday, we agreed that the pedestrian bridges should be located lower in elevation to be closer to the streams and natural areas, however, all of the requirements for hydraulic modeling and map revision should apply to the bridges the same as any other proposed encroachments into the floodway or non-encroachment areas. Therefore, we would like to propose that Article 5, Section A, item 15 be modified to read:

"Pedestrian bridges and walkways will be allowed within mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas and shall comply with all applicable standards of sections D, E, and F of this Article."

Sections D, E, and F are the sections that regulate fill and other encroachments within the areas designated as Special Flood Hazard Areas on the effective FIRM panels. These sections would require that the bridges and walkways comply with the same specific standards and restrictions as other encroachments into floodway and non-encroachment areas.

Please accept this verbiage as an official request to modify the language in the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

D. Amos Clark, PE
Director - Stormwater Management

THE JOHN R. McADAMS COMPANY, INC.
2905 Meridian Parkway
Durham, NC 27713
919-361-5000 RTP, NC Office
704-527-0800 Charlotte, NC Office
919-417-2547 Mobile
clark@johnrmcadams.com

The John R. McAdams Company, Inc. provides a unique collection of land development design services including land planning, zoning administration and permitting, surveying, site engineering, contract administration, landscape architecture, stormwater management, and traffic engineering. McAdams has offices in Durham and Charlotte, North Carolina. For more information, visit www.johnrmcadams.com.

McADAMS COMPANY: *Assisting our clients to have successful projects for over 25 years.*

11/21/2006

Jason Sullivan

From: Keith Megginson [keith.megginson@ncmail.net]
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2006 8:49 AM
To: 'Jason Sullivan'
Subject: FW: Pedestrian Bridges within Floodplain

From: Gray Styers [mailto:GStyers@bjmls-law.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2006 4:17 PM
To: victor.labsock@ci.raleigh.nc.us
Cc: Sig Hutchinson; Keith Megginson
Subject: Pedestrian Bridges within Floodplain

Vic, thank you for talking with me today. As the City of Raleigh Greenway Planner, you have had a lot of experience with pedestrian bridges within floodplains. To summarize our conversation, it is your opinion and observation that pedestrian bridges can and are designed to withstand flood waters and therefore can be located within floodplains. Properly designed, pedestrian bridges can be placed in floodplains, and will withstand flood over-wash without causing any adverse impact to the environment or other properties. You explained that it is important to perform flood studies to ensure that the bridge and greenway construction doesn't affect flood elevation levels, and that, sometimes, such studies will indicate that a bridge should be placed at a lower elevation so that it will, in fact, be over-washed by flood waters. In summary, you stated that you believe that a requirement that pedestrian bridges be built at least one foot about the base flood elevation would be unnecessary and would create an onerous burden on greenway design and planning.

Thank you again. Let me know if anything I wrote above from my notes does not accurately reflect our conversation. I may be back in touch with you in case we have any further questions on this issue.

Gray Styers

Blanchard, Jenkins, Miller, Lewis & Styers PA
1117 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 28701
tele: 919-755-3993
fax: 919-755-3994
e-mail: gstyers@bjmls-law.com
web: www.bjmls-law.com

).