

PLANNING & ZONING REVIEW NOTES

VI. C.

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**SUBJECT:** Request by Sears Design Group, P. A. on behalf of Fitch Creations for subdivision sketch design approval of “**The Knolls At Ferrington**”, consisting of 30 lots on 20 acres, located off SR-1817, Millcroft and SR-1859, South Langdon Place, Williams Township.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Major subdivision application.
2. ArcView map, parcel #19333
3. Letter from Alan R. Keith, P. E. regarding the Ferrington WWTP capacity.
4. Sketch design map titled “The Knolls at Ferrington”, prepared by Sears Design Group, P. A., dated 5/2/07

**INFORMATION / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:** The subject property is part of the approved Planned Unit Development for the Village of Ferrington which includes 1602 dwelling units on approximately 925 acres. The property is in a WSIV-Protected Area watershed district and requires a 50 foot water hazard setback / vegetative stream buffer from creeks and streams. The property is not within a portion of the 100 year flood plain.

**ISSUES FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:** The developer is requesting sketch design approval of “The Knolls at Ferrington” consisting of 30 townhouse lots on 20 acres. Per Dan Sears, Sears Design Group, P. A., “These units will be Townhouse type ownership where the owner owns fee simple the land under and immediately around his home, and the Homeowners’ Association, of all these owners, owns the common land upon which the homes are clustered.” There are areas of open space and common lands within this project. See sketch plan Section SPI – 5 Property Information for a breakdown of the various areas. The Knolls at Ferrington will be similar to existing Weathersfield and Beechmast town homes in regard to ownership of the open space and common lands. Streets ‘A’ and ‘B’ are to be private and are accessed off SR-1836 South Langdon.

County water is available and will be utilized. Lots will be served by the Ferrington Wastewater Treatment Plant. Attachment # 3 is verification / certification from Alan R. Keith, P. E., with Diehl & Phillips, P. A. that the Ferrington WWTP plant currently has capacity to serve the Barber Lands Subdivision and the Knolls at Ferrington.

Streams shown on the sketch plan are perennial and have the required 50 foot water hazard setback / vegetative stream buffer, measured from the top of the bank landward.

*Re: The Knolls at Fearington*

**ISSUES FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS** – con't

Staff's review of the Natural Heritage Program shows the property to potentially contain the Loggerhead Shrike, which is county wide. The subject property also lies within the Big Woods Road Upland Forests area. The Inventory of the Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats of Chatham County dated June 1992 states "The Big woods is the largest tract of unbroken upland forest remaining in the county, if not the entire triangle region. As such, it serves as an important wildlife reservoir, supplying the entire area through its connections via the Jordan Lake game lands to the Haw River, New Hope Creek, and Morgan Creek watersheds.....Conservation Recommendations: The value of this tract to wildlife requires that its unbroken, wooded character be preserved. Although its rugged terrain continues to offer some degree of protection, development is already making noticeable inroads, particularly along the Jordan Lake frontage. Ideally, this tract will continue to be used primarily for forestry, although the owners should be encouraged to shift away from clear-cutting to the use of selective harvesting, shelter wood stands, and other practices less disruptive to wildlife (particularly wild turkey and bobcat)." Various subdivision of land has occurred in this area since this report was prepared including Big Woods Hills, The Preserve, The Legacy at Jordan Lake, and Windfall Creek.

Staff notified Delores Hall, Deputy State Archaeologist-Land, Office of State Archaeology of the sketch design submittals received for the June 5<sup>th</sup> Planning Board meeting for comments or recommendations. For the Knolls at Fearington, Ms. Hall stated "No recorded archaeological sites are present and I do not recommend any survey".

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Planning Department recommends granting sketch design approval of "The Knolls at Fearington" as submitted.