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June 11, 2020

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To: Board of Ravalli County Commissioners

From: Bitterrooters for Planning

Re: Flying Colors, 5-lot minor subdivision, walking path easement

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Flying Colors 5-lot minor subdivision.

Bitterrooters for Planning has no opposition to this subdivision, but we are interested in seeing a walking path easement required for PPD approval.

As you may or may not know, some years ago, students at Lone Rock School, as a class project, mapped a walking path from their school to Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge. As we understand it, this path needed two easements from private property owners – one across the Flying Colors property and another through the adjacent Gates property.

The students were unable to obtain an easement through the Gates property, and the path project never came to fruition.

It appears there now may be an opportunity to negotiate a walking path easement through the Gates property, now in conservation easement.

Such a project would be up to the Lone Rock School and community at some point in the future if the community so chooses to pursue it. We don't speak for the Lone Rock community, of course, but we do know the history and suggest it would be a prudent idea to at least ask the landowner of Flying Colors for a walking path easement so, if some point in the future, the school or community pursues the school-to-refuge walking path, at least one easement across Flying Colors will be available, and the second through the Gates property could be negotiated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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