

Supplemental Packet
07-07-2020

To: City of Afton Mayor and Afton City Council, City Administrator

Date: July 5, 2020

RE: Lake Edith Clear Cutting- 1073 Indian Trail Path S., Afton Owners: Jake and Jen Morri

Dear Mayor and Council, City Administrator

Thank you for your sincere interest and concern regarding this matter. We appreciate this item being on your Tuesday July 7 agenda. The Lake Edith region is a unique city asset and deserves your attention and vigilance in maintaining its high water quality, fragile environmental condition, and valued rare natural resources.

As stewards of the land since 1985, we are shocked by the recent blatant and reckless actions taken by the Mr. and Mrs. Morri on their newly developed lot in clear cutting of vegetation along the bluff line and steep fragile hillside, the establishment of a steep gravel road/path, and the clearing of the lakefront. Their total disregard of the scenic easement restrictions, city ordinances, Watershed District and DNR requirements will cause significant damage to the environment; wild animal, bird and fish habitat; water quality of Lake Edith and related watersheds; and surrounding properties. The clear cutting has ruined the shoreline view and aesthetics of the continuous natural scenery along the hillside and bluff line. As a result, persons using the lake and neighbors across the lake now have shoreline views blighted by their inconsiderate and self-serving actions.

A token written apology by the owners is insufficient. Aggressive corrective and restorative action is necessary immediately directed and overseen by the City using outside experts and advisors as needed.

We urge the Afton Council and City officials to take all necessary steps to order the owners to cease and desist: (1.) all current building activities (including the temporary suspension and compliance review of all building and occupancy related permits and approvals) and (2.) any further lot development activities UNTIL ALL corrective actions to the Lake Edith bluff and hillside have been fully completed and restored to its previous natural state and fully meet all the requirements as specified to the City Council's satisfaction.

We consider the actions taken by the Morris to be a total breach of trust and respect of the fragile Lake Edith environment, the neighbors, and the City. As such, we urge the Council to require the posting of sufficient financial cash reserves by the owners to the City to guaranty full payment of costs incurred in the timely correction and restoration of the damage caused. We encourage the Council to establish performance timelines, milestone measurements of progress, and monitoring of the restoration work. In addition, continued annual reviews should be conducted on the lot to assure continued compliance by the owners.

Thank you for your consideration and concern. We appreciate your strong efforts in this matter.
Sincerely,

John Gilpin & Cindy Gilpin, 14733 Hudson Rd. S., Afton 612-709-5167

Attachment: Photo Gilpin View of Lake Edith Clear Cutting Dated 06 27 2020



Julie Yoho

From: Ron Moorese
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Julie Yoho
Subject: FW: Lake Edith slope clearing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Julie,
Here is another email to include in the supplemental packet for tonight's Special Council meeting.
Thanks,
Ron

From: Katie Craft <katrinecraft@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:46 PM
To: Bill mayor <mayor@ci.afton.mn.us>; Randy ward4 <ward4@ci.afton.mn.us>; Ron Moorese <rmoorse@ci.afton.mn.us>
Cc: ward 3 <ward3@ci.afton.mn.us>; Ward 2 Council Member ward2 <ward2@ci.afton.mn.us>
Subject: Lake Edith slope clearing

Dear Mayor Palmquist, Council Member Nelson, and City Administrator Moorese,

My husband and I were drawn to Afton for the many reasons obvious to all of you, but mostly the appreciation of the Earth and the kind people within the Afton community that have welcomed us. We were excited to be a part of a neighborhood on Lake Edith that felt so much ownership and took such regard for the land and water. We have two young daughters who also are learning to care for the land and Lake from our example and the example of our neighbors.

When the Morri's moved in, we welcomed them to the neighborhood and brought over a dessert. The connection grew upon realizing that our children attended the same school.

To say that we were extremely disappointed to hear about the clearing of a slope is a gross understatement. Not to mention that the Morri's *went out of their way* to defy the rules set upon the land prior to their purchase. I have no words for those who have such disregard for nature.

We can't undo the damage, so it all really comes down to the actions that are taken to counter the atrocity that has occurred. If the penalty is not stiff enough, I'd expect the slopes around the Lake to be cleared even more in the next few years as the new owners of the land next to mine or any other owners look to improve their view and land value at the expense of Lake Edith and surrounding habitat. *We need your help.* We need to ensure the restoration of undercover vegetation to prevent erosion. We need the restoration of substantially sized trees. We need to make sure that others are not inclined to follow the Morri's lead.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me and/or others on Lake Edith if there's anything we can do to support your efforts. We are looking for firm swift action in this matter.

Thank you for all you do for our communities and for your consideration on this.

Respectfully,

Katie Craft
1037 Indian Trail Path South
Afton, MN 55001
612-385-8255

Julie Yoho

From: Ron Moose
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Julie Yoho
Subject: FW: Cutting of trees on Lake Edith*****

Julie,
Here is an item to possibly include in the supplemental packet. I will confirm to include this item unless the item gets revised based on discussions between Bill and/or Randy and Mr. Morri.
Ron

From: Jake Morri <jake@hometownacehardware.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Ron Moose <rmoorse@ci.afton.mn.us>; Bill mayor <mayor@ci.afton.mn.us>; Randy ward4 <ward4@ci.afton.mn.us>
Subject: Cutting of trees on Lake Edith*****

Good Morning Bill, Randy and Ron,

I wanted to touch base before tomorrow's council meeting. We want to do the right thing, we are onboard with a revegetation plan and the appropriate permit fee/fines. We also understand the city may be considering punitive damages. Obviously, we want to avoid any type of legal action and assume the city would as well. To help alleviate the situation, we are proposing a sizable donation to the Belwin Conservancy with the understanding the funds are to be used on Lake Edith. We feel this is the best long term solution for all parties and the Lake Edith Community. Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Jake Morri
651-755-6000

This information is available in alternate formats.

IN PROJECT
 JOTE FORM
 AFTON, MN

No.	Mat No.	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
30th Street – Reclamation Project						
1	2021.501	MOBILIZATION	L S	1	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
2	2101.501	CLEARING & GRUBBING	L S	1	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
3	2104.503	SAWING BIT PAVEMENT (FULL DEPTH)	L F	60	\$1.00	\$60.00
4	2104.504	REMOVE BITUMINOUS DRIVEWAY PAVEMENT	S Y	100	\$9.00	\$900.00
5	2106.507	EXCAVATION - COMMON	C Y	120	\$10.00	\$1,200.00
6	2118.507	AGGREGATE SURFACING (CV) CLASS 7	C Y	20	\$12.00	\$240.00
7	2123.61	STREET SWEEPER (WITH PICKUP BROOM)	HOUR	5	\$200.00	\$1,000.00
8	2130.523	WATER	MGAL	5	\$20.00	\$100.00
9	2211.507	AGGREGATE BASE (CV) CLASS 5	C Y	440	\$12.00	\$5,280.00
10	2215.504	FULL DEPTH RECLAMATION	S Y	6800	\$1.25	\$8,500.00
11	2357.506	BITUMINOUS MATERIAL FOR TACK COAT	GAL	370	\$4.00	\$1,480.00
12	2360.504	TYPE SP 9.5 WEAR CRS MIX(2,C)3.0" THICK	S Y	180	\$9.00	\$1,620.00
13	2360.509	TYPE SP 12.5 WEARING COURSE MIX (2,C)	TON	660	\$82.00	\$54,120.00
14	2360.509	TYPE SP 12.5 NON WEAR COURSE MIX (2,C)	TON	880	\$82.00	\$72,160.00
15	2540.602	MAIL BOX	EACH	1	\$225.00	\$225.00
16	2540.602	MAIL BOX SUPPORT	EACH	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
17	2540.602	TEMPORARY MAIL BOX	EACH	8	\$100.00	\$800.00
18	2563.601	TRAFFIC CONTROL	LS	1	\$5,400.00	\$5,400.00
19	2573.501	STABILIZED CONSTRUCTION EXIT	L S	1	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
20	2573.503	SILT FENCE, TYPE MS	L F	1000	\$2.86	\$2,855.00
21	2573.503	SEDIMENT CONTROL LOG TYPE WOOD FIBER	L F	1000	\$3.50	\$3,500.00
22	2574.507	COMMON TOPSOIL BORROW	C Y	170	\$11.76	\$2,000.00
23	2575.504	RAPID STABILIZATION METHOD 4	S Y	1500	\$1.50	\$2,250.00
24	2575.508	SEED MIXTURE 25-121	LB	40	\$5.00	\$200.00
25	2575.605	SEEDING SPECIAL	ACRE	0.4	\$5,000.00	\$2,000.00
TOTAL QUOTE						\$174,990.00