

Mark Sidran
 Chairman, WUTC
 P.O. Box 47250
 Olympia, WA 98504-7250
 June 25, 2006

RECEIVED
 JUN 26 2006 RECORDS MGMT. UNIT
 CHAIR, WUTC
 RECEIVED
 JUN 26 AM 11:15
 STATE OF WASH.
 UTIL. AND TRANSP.
 COMMISSION

Dear Mark Sidran,

(This letter below is what we emailed to you Thursday, June 15, from Stehekin, via the email address of Judy Clark.)

We, Charlie Raymond and Sarah McElroy, oppose approval of the WeavTel application for grant money to install a telephone system in Stehekin.

I, Charlie, have been visiting Stehekin for 35 years, and I, Sarah, for 9 years. We now are property owners there, and have a strong interest in what happens locally.

The bases for our opposition are as follows:

1. The telephone system is not wanted by the residents of Stehekin.
2. The permit for construction of the central facility in the floodplain of the Stehekin River has not been approved by Chelan County.*
3. Local easements for providing service to the residents have not been obtained.

Furthermore, WeavTel activities thus far have been highly insensitive to the community. WeavTel essentially clearcut its property (located in a wooded residential neighborhood) and bulldozed much of its area without having a permit to proceed with its commercial activity, totally ignoring the impacts on adjacent properties and the surrounding neighborhood.

As taxpayers we are also concerned that public funds be well spent in the public interest. All indications are that WeavTel is concerned primarily with securing public funds with little or no commitment to providing a service compatible with community interests.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Charlie Raymond

Charlie Raymond
 3798 NE 97th St
 Seattle WA 98115
 (206) 522-3798
 raymcel@earthlink.net

Sarah McElroy
 Sarah McElroy

* Here enclosed are the letters we each wrote to the Chelan County Planning Dept. regarding WeavTel's application for a permit to build on their property in Stehekin.

Charles Raymond
3798 NE 97th St.
Seattle, WA 98115

January 23, 2006

Brian Frampton
Chelan County Planning Department
316 Washington Street, Suite 301
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Re: Applications

- Administrative Use Permit AUP2005-14 (for construction of a Utility, low impact)
- Local Zone Change ZC2006-001 (for removal of subject property from the "Frequently Flooded Overlay")

Dear Mr. Frampton,

I am writing to you about the above mentioned applications related to requests for permits to construct a building for a proposed WeavTel telephone service in Stehekin. For over 30 years I have been a recreational visitor to Stehekin. So far, I have not been lucky enough to establish a residence in Stehekin, but I hope that will come. I value the combination of rustic community and surrounding wild country that makes Stehekin such a special place for both residents and visitors. The proposed WeavTel development threatens the long-standing character of the community, and I certainly join the majority of residents in opposing this development.

An Administrative Use Permit such as sought by AUP2005-14 places a burden of proof on the applicant as specified in "11.94.040 Administrative review" which states:

"... An administrative use permit may be approved only if all of the following findings can be made regarding the proposal and are supported by the record:

1 That the granting of the proposed administrative use permit approval will not:

....

B. Adversely affect the established character of the surrounding vicinity and planned uses; nor

C. Be injurious to the uses, property, or improvements adjacent to, and in the vicinity of, the site upon which the proposed use is to be located.

..."

I do not believe that WeavTel can be successful in proving these findings for the following reasons:

First, the applicable minimum criteria for the facility specified in "11.94.200 Low impact utility" states:

"...

3. The use shall be fenced.

..."

The required finding 11.94.040 number 1. B. and the minimum criterion 11.94.200 number 3 certainly can not be met together. There are now no fences anywhere near the WeavTel site. A barrier fence around it would be

June 25, 2006

distinctly out of place, and furthermore impart a sense of separation, prohibition and lack of trust, all of which are out character with present Stehekin culture. I do not see how one could reach the "finding" that a fence of the nature implied by the "minimum criteria" would not be a serious adverse effect on "the established character of the surrounding vicinity". Substituting security lighting for a fence barrier would also profoundly alter the character of the neighborhood, where one of the great values is the treasure of the grand night sky, undiluted by artificial lights.

Second, I turn to ZC2006-001 that requests "to remove portions of the subject property from the Frequently Flooded Areas Overlay". While it may be possible to remove the WeavTel site from the "Overlay", it can not be removed from the Stehekin River flood plain. That the present zoning is correct is shown by analyses of several agencies (most recently the January, 2001 report from the Chelan Public District Number 1 "Evaluation of the back-water, hydraulic profile of the lower Stehekin River") and plenty of real-life experience (for example, the October 2003 flooding of this specific area). Changes in the river bed make future frequency of flooding unclear. A finding that the site is not subject to flooding would be unfounded and appear arbitrary without a lot of hydraulic analysis. In the context of this particular application, it might be argued that diversion ditches could be improved and augmented to divert flood water from the WeavTel site, but that would be problematic for nearby properties and inconsistent with both 11.95.040 Numbers 1 B and C.

Third, the actions to date by Weavtel on their site, one being removal of almost all trees including trees near uncertain boundaries with adjoining property, demonstrate a clear lack of sensitivity for neighbors and the rustic, woodsy character of the neighborhood that all value. This recent history heightens the bar for proof required of WeavTel as specified in 11.94.040, which must also involve an assessment of their good-will toward the neighborhood.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue. Please make these comments part of the record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Raymond".

Charles Raymond

Sarah McElroy
3798 NE 97th St
Seattle WA 98115

Brian Frampton
Chelan County Planning Dept
316 Washington
Chelan WA 98801
December 3, 2005

Dear Mr. Frampton,

I am writing with concern for the proposed WeavTel telephone service for Stehekin; I strongly oppose the introduction of this service.

I am a consistent (several times a year) recreational user of the Stehekin Valley and surrounding National Park trails and facilities and treasure the unique place that it is. My view is that the introduction of a telephone system as now being planned by WeavTel will adversely impact the community in several ways, as listed under my Concerns below.

Concerns relating to "11.94.040, Administrative review...An administrative use permit may be approved only if all of the following findings can be made regarding the proposal and are supported by the record:

1. That the granting of the proposed administrative use permit approval will not:

....
B. Adversely affect the established character of the surrounding vicinity...nor

C. Be injurious to the uses, property, or improvements adjacent to, and in the vicinity of, the site upon which the proposed use is to be located...."

Concern #1. In re to B. above, the establishment of a commercial facility on the property secured by WeavTel has already adversely affected the established character of the surrounding vicinity: WeavTel clear cut their lot; such cutting of trees makes barren an area that was previously wooded and in harmony with neighboring property.

Concern #2. In re to C. above, WeavTel has been injurious to property adjacent to the proposed site. They cut down trees belonging to an adjacent property owner! Such negligence deserves reparation for the property owner; to my knowledge, this has not yet happened.

Concerns relating to "11.94.200 Low impact utility
The following minimum criteria shall apply to utility uses:

....
3. The use shall be fenced...."

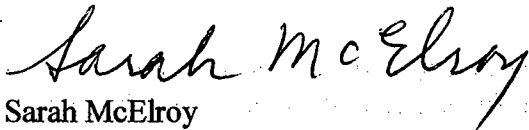
Concern #3. In re to #3 above, I wish to say that a fence around the WeavTel site would be quite foreign-looking, would impart the idea of separation, or prohibition. There are no fences now in that area. In fact, there are very few fences in Stehekin. One long time resident told us last year that she sees fences as imparting a look of lack of friendliness. In re to B. above, a fence would certainly adversely affect the area.

Concern #4. The WeavTel site is in a prominent flood plain. This area was flooded in the 2003 Stehekin River flood. Is such a site appropriate for a telephone company office?

Concern #5. The WeavTel site is in a distinctly residential area. Any required security lights would greatly impact the visual access of that neighborhood's residents to the beautiful night sky. How many places in the U.S.A. now can one find complete darkness at night? A treasure indeed. A treasure to be preserved. In re to B. above, if a light is required, it would certainly adversely affect the area.

Thank you for your consideration of the above concerns as the Planning Department appraises the WeavTel application for telephone service for Stehekin.

Sincerely,



Sarah McElroy
(206) 522-3798
raymcel@earthlink.net

cc: Nathan Pate
Mike Cecka

Sarah McElroy
3798 NE 97th St
Seattle WA 98115

Brian Frampton
Chelan County Planning Dept
316 Washington, Suite 301
Wenatchee WA 98801
May 3, 2006

Dear Mr. Frampton,

I am writing in response to the Notice of Application # AUP2005-014 for WeavTel, for a localized zone change to remove portions of their property from the Frequently Flooded Areas in Stehekin.

First I want to say that I strongly oppose the introduction of this telephone service for all the reasons I listed here below relating to "11.94.050, Administrative review...." in my letter to you of December 3, 2005.

Secondly, I want to express two additional concerns:

Additional Concern #1: If WeavTel raises its property level above 1108.24 msl it seems that this construction must necessarily entail drainage of any flood waters onto adjacent, non-WeavTel-owned land, increasing damage to neighboring properties. Such a condition is not acceptable for the surrounding area.

Additional Concern #2: I heard during my visit to Stehekin in April, 2006, that Weavtel will possibly place a mobile home on its property to serve as the business/office location. Such a structure is entirely outside the current "character" (as cited in 11.94.040 Administrative review) of that neighborhood. Such a structure would definitely degrade the rural, forest character of that area.

I am a consistent (several times a year) recreational user of the Stehekin Valley and surrounding National Park trails and facilities and treasure the unique place that it is. My view is that the introduction of a telephone system as now being planned by WeavTel will adversely impact the community in several ways, as listed under my Concerns below, as I listed them in my letter to you of December 3, 2005.

Concerns relating to "11.94.040, Administrative review...An administrative use permit may be approved only if all of the following findings can be made regarding the proposal and are supported by the record:

1. That the granting of the proposed administrative use permit approval will not:

...
B. Adversely affect the established character of the surrounding vicinity...nor

C. Be injurious to the uses, property, or improvements adjacent to, and in the vicinity of, the site upon which the proposed use is to be located....”

Concern #1. In re to B. above, the establishment of a commercial facility on the property secured by WeavTel has already adversely affected the established character of the surrounding vicinity: WeavTel clear cut their lot; such cutting of trees makes barren an area that was previously wooded and in harmony with neighboring property.

Concern #2. In re to C. above, WeavTel has been injurious to property adjacent to the proposed site. They cut down trees belonging to an adjacent property owner! Such negligence deserves reparation for the property owner; to my knowledge, this has not yet happened.

Concerns relating to “11.94.200 *Low impact utility*
The following minimum criteria shall apply to utility uses:

....
3. *The use shall be fenced....”*

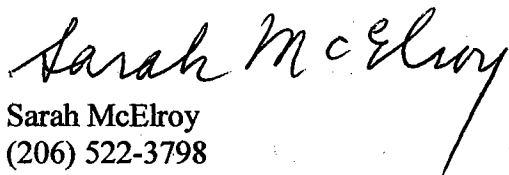
Concern #3. In re to #3 above, I wish to say that a fence around the WeavTel site would be quite foreign-looking, would impart the idea of separation, or prohibition. There are no fences now in that area. In fact, there are very few fences in Stehekin. One long time resident told us last year that she sees fences as imparting a look of lack of friendliness. In re to B. above, a fence would certainly adversely affect the area.

Concern #4. The WeavTel site is in a prominent flood plain. This area was flooded in the 2003 Stehekin River flood. Is such a site appropriate for a telephone company office?

Concern #5. The WeavTel site is in a distinctly residential area. Any required security lights would greatly impact the visual access of that neighborhood’s residents to the beautiful night sky. How many places in the U.S.A. now can one find complete darkness at night? A treasure indeed. A treasure to be preserved. In re to B. above, if a light is required, it would certainly adversely affect the area.

Thank you for your consideration of the above concerns as the Planning Department appraises the WeavTel application for telephone service for Stehekin.

Sincerely,



Sarah McElroy
(206) 522-3798
raymcel@earthlink.net