1	OFFICE OF THE ZONING HEARING EXAMINER
2	FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
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6	FOREST HILLS : Case No. A-9895-01
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9	A hearing in the above-entitled matter was held on
10	March 17, 2021, at the Prince George's County Office of
11	Zoning, County Administration Building, Room 2174, Upper
12	Marlboro, Maryland 20772 before:
13	Halibolo, Halylana 20772 belole.
14	Maurene McNeil
15	Hearing Examiner
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A P P E A R A N C E S

On Behalf of the Applicant:

Arthur Horne, Esq.

On Behalf of People's Zoning:

Stan Brown

2.3

PROCEEDINGS

MR. HORNE: Good morning, Stan.

MR. BAILAN: Good morning, Stan.

MR. BROWN: Hey, how are you?

MS. MCNEIL: Good morning, everyone. I'm Maurene McNeil and I'll be your Hearing Examiner today, and I have a few remarks that I have to go through before we start.

First of all, I have to remember that it is March 17, 2021. Happy St. Patrick's Day to many who recognize St. Patrick. We are here on Case A-9895-C-01, and the applicant has been referred to as Forest Hills and Quad Construction Company, so I'm hoping we'll make sure that is the correct name for the applicant shortly. And the applicant is requesting to revise conditions imposed by the District Council in its approval of the basic plan in A-9895-C.

There are some participation guidelines for the hearing. Everyone was supposed to have signed up as a person of record no later than two days before the hearing, but I understand we may have someone else who just requested to become a person of record. That's fine, but if you choose to participate in the hearing, you have to let us know in the chat and provide your address and email if you have not done so thus far.

All persons of record have probably connected through a computer tab of their smartphone. We ask that you

all mute your phones when not speaking. Do not put your phone on hold if you're calling in through a phone. To eliminate audio feedback, only one connected device with sound should be in the room at the same time. If you become disconnected during this meeting, you can just sign in again to the link provided and if the hearing is continued for any reason, you will receive a different link shortly before that hearing.

Okay. If counsel would identify themselves for the record?

MR. HORNE: Good morning, Madam Hearing Examiner.

Arthur Horne, the law office of Shipley and Horne, here on behalf of Quad Construction Corporation and its president,

Mr. Sevag Bailan.

MR. BROWN: Stan Brown, People's Zoning Council.

MS. MCNEIL: Okay. I see other names on here, so I forgot to also say if you're not a witness that's going to testify for the applicant, please write in the chat if you intend to testify and also write in the chat whenever you may have a question for a particular witness and we'll call on you at the proper time.

Okay, Mr. Horne, take it away.

MR. HORNE: Thank you very much, Madam Hearing Examiner. Once again, Arthur Horne here on behalf of the applicant, Quad Construction Company and its president, Mr.

Sevag Bailan, and Happy St. Patrick's Day to you and all as well.

Madam Hearing Examiner, I wanted to just start off by indicating that though I believe it was just Mr. Brown who was here, last week we were here for an amended basic plan as well. We had seven witnesses. It was a very complex case where you were changing the plan from residential to industrial. Here, we have a relatively simple request where, in the basic plan we're asking simply to amend two conditions on an approved basic plan where there is an issue of the location of a future trail, planned trail.

We'll have, the testimony this morning will be from Mr. Balian, who is the president of the company that owns the site; and, as you know, the site is located in, I'll give the exact address, it's on both sides of Largo Road south of Kent Drive, approximately 3,000 feet north of Old Marlboro Pike. It's identified as 14300 and 14308 (indiscernible) Court, 4100 to 4219 Tulane Court, 4000 to 4114 Gorkey (phonetic sp.) Drive, and 4000 to 4007 Busy Lane, and 4702 to 14805 Agassi Court, all in Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774.

We also have with us testifying on behalf of the applicant Mr. Tom Burke from Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission who is here simply to give an

attestation of the recommendation of Park and Planning staff with reference to this application. I haven't said that the, Madam Hearing Examiner, 3 4 I'd like to call as the first witness Mr. Sevag Bailan. 5 MR. BAILAN: Thank you, Arthur. MR. HORNE: She's going to swear you in. 6 7 MS. MCNEIL: Do you swear or affirm under the penalties of perjury that the testimony you shall give will 8 9 be the truth and nothing but the truth? 10 MR. BAILAN: Yes, I do. 11 MR. HORNE: Can you please state your name and 12 business address for the record please? 13 MR. BAILAN: Sure. My name is Gregory Sevag Bailan. Our office is at 6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 14 15 310, Rockville, Maryland 20852. 16 MR. HORNE: And, all right, what is your 17 relationship or position to Quad Construction Corporation? 18 MR. BAILAN: I am the president of Quad 19 Construction Corporation. 20 MR. HORNE: All right. And what is the Quad Construction's relationship, corporation's relationship with 21 22 the Forest Hill property, the subject of this application 23 here today? 24 MR. BAILAN: Quad Construction Corporation is the 25 fee simple, 100 percent owner of Forest Hills Property.

MR. HORNE: Okay. And, Mr. Bailan, did there come a time when you filed a petition to amend conditions to the Forest Hill basic plan?

MR. BAILAN: Yes, I did.

MR. HORNE: And is that the reason why we're here this morning to discuss that?

MR. BAILAN: Yes, we are.

MR. HORNE: And could you please explain to the Examiner in your own words what you're seeking here this morning and why?

MR. BAILAN: Yes, I will. Madam Hearing Examiner and Mr. Brown, thank you for this opportunity to present testimony for your consideration of A-9895-01 for Forest Hills. As I previously stated, my name is Gregory Sevag Bailan and I'm the president of Quad Construction Corporation, which owns Forest Hills. I am also president of Haverford Homes, which has built over 2,500 homes in Prince George's County over the past 25 years which I started back in the early 1990s with one home.

In 1994, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission adopted basic plan A-9895, which was thereafter adopted by the District Council as CR54-1994. On September 30, 2020, as the president of the owner applicant Quad Construction Corporation, and pursuant to the zoning ordinance of Prince George's County Code Section 27-197(c),

I submitted a formal request to amend Conditions 15 and 16 of the basic plan A-9895. The amended condition, which I will reference hereinafter, will provide the residents of Prince George's County an alternative which is not only equal, but better than what is currently approved in A-9895.

Currently, Conditions 15 and 16 are basic plan A-9895 require that a trail be built on the western branch owned by the Park and Planning Commission's Parks

Department. Specifically, Conditions 15 and 16 state the following. Condition 15, the applicant shall construct the hiker-biker trail along the western branch with connections provided to the Forest Hills community where possible.

Feasibility and location of trail connections will be determined during the consideration of the comprehensive design plan.

Condition 16, the hiker/biker trail shall be constructed in conformance with DPRs, which is the Parks Department, guidelines for park and recreational facilities. Since the approval of A-9895 in 1994, no master plan trail systems have been built or are planned to be built on the western branch and the area has been significantly built out with several communities. However, several trails have already been built along the Collington trail system, which is the east of the property. Therefore, building a trail system on the western branch will not connect to any other

trail systems and will not provide a greater good.

Along the Collington trail on the other hand, there is a need to connect several trail systems which the Parks Department wishes to connect for the greater good of Prince George's County residents. In my meetings with representatives of the Parks Department, two of whom, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Burke, are online today to testify as well, the Parks Department offered that we pay a fee in lieu of 200,000 to them so that they may proceed with the connectivity of the trails on the Collington trail. They calculated this amount as a fair in lieu payment. After some consideration and review, I agreed to that amount.

The Parks Department will use those funds to connect portions of existing trails that are located east of the property and which will better serve the larger community because of the continuity of those trails. In order to facilitate this effort, I am kindly requesting a revision to Conditions 15 and 16 of the basic plan to state as follows. Condition 15, improvements of the trail system to the east of the property shall be funded in part by the total payment of 200,000 prorated on a per building permit basis to DPR, the Parks Department, by the applicant, his heirs, successors and/or assignees; and amend Condition 16 to state, the location of the trail improvements shall be solely at DPR's discretion.

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Planning Board has already approved to reconsider a Preliminary Plan 4-03071, conditions for Forest Hills, which correspond to these two basic plan conditions. Your approval, Madam Zoning Hearing Examiner, will allow the Planning Board to continue with its hearing to amend Preliminary Plan 4-03071 and adopt these new conditions as well. The end result will be a better trail system that will serve a greater number of Prince George's County residents in this area.

Finally, I would like to mention that residents of Forest Hills will enjoy private recreational facilities asides from this public facility. We currently have a recorded private recreational facilities agreement in the land records of Prince George's County that include playground equipment and a separate trail systems with benches and a walking path around the stormwater management facility that is already planned.

Since the property is bifurcated by Route 202, we are providing residents, we are providing the Forest Hill residents HOA maintain recreational facilities on both the eastern and western portions of the property. This basic plan amendment, therefore, maintains the private recreational facilities in place and with regard to the public recreational facilities, which is this trail, we are

providing a greater good to the community with this amended basic plan.

Thank you for your consideration and that ends my testimony.

MR. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Bailan. There is a list of exhibits that pre-file and within, I believe it's Exhibit 4, there is a Staff Report for the Planning Board from Deondre Scradley (phonetic sp.) through Jeremy Hurlbutt (phonetic sp.), which is the referral concerning the amendment to the basic plan A-9895-01, with his recommendation of approval. Do you adopt their findings and conclusions that were found by Park and Planning as well?

MR. BAILAN: Yes, I agree with them and I do concur with those results.

MR. HORNE: Thank you. That's all, Madam Chairman for --

MS. MCNEIL: So, Mr. Bailan, Park and Planning's conditions in its report are slightly different from the ones you read. So, you're saying you agree with the ones that they set forth, because there's something about escalating it, indexing it to a --

MR. BAILAN: Yes, I agree with that because that, that meets with the CPI guidelines and the CPI index, so should the property not be built, which we hope it will be built soon, but in the event it's not built, it has to be

inflation adjusted. 1 2 MS. MCNEIL: Okay. Mr. Brown, do you have any 3 questions? 4 MR. BROWN: Yes. Good morning, Mr. Bailan. How 5 are you? MR. BAILAN: Fine, Mr. Brown, how are you? 6 7 MR. BROWN: Good. Has the Planning Board scheduled a hearing on the preliminary plan to consider an 8 9 amendment? 10 MR. BAILAN: The Planning Board did schedule to 11 open the preliminary plan, which they did, and approved. 12 Therefore, Sherry Connor, head of the Subdivision Section, 13 instructed me that I had to go through this amended basic plan before they would reschedule hearing the preliminary 14 15 plan with the revised conditions. 16 MR. BROWN: No, that's my question. So, they have 17 not considered revision, revising the preliminary plan with 18 the new conditions, they haven't done that yet? 19 MR. BAILAN: They have not done that because they 20 could not. They had, this process had to occur before they 21 were willing to set that meeting. 22 MR. BROWN: I see. All right. You would not be opposed to a condition, if this were to be approved, that 23 24 essentially states the revisions are dependent upon the

amendment of the preliminary plan being consistent with

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these revisions?

MR. BAILAN: Well, I think that's the right thing to do, Mr. Brown. I agree with that. Obviously, both, both from your side, the council's side and the Park and Planning's side, there has to be a concurrence of these issues, otherwise there would be, you know, there could be a dichonomy in approvals. So, I think that's a good suggestion.

MR. BROWN: All right. I saw in your, in the file of September 30, 2020, a letter from yourself to the Clerk of the Council, and attached to it were two maps which is not identified by the Staff Exhibit 8. Do we have, that we can show up on the screen, an illustration of the location of the trails either proposed or -- so I can see what was planned and what was proposed?

MR. BAILAN: Sure. So, if we look at, if we look at page 4 of the, I don't have it up, I don't have the ability to put it up on my, on the screen there.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, but, but, Betty, can you put that up on the screen please?

MS. MCNEIL: It's Fatima.

MR. BROWN: Fatima, I'm sorry.

MS. MCNEIL: And I believe it might be Exhibit 9 actually.

MR. HORNE: And while we wait, I just want to say,

Mr. Brown, to your question, I think there is an order of approval required, a basic plan to, to come before the preliminary plan, so the proposed conditions, though acceptable, has to be in a format, while it doesn't require the preliminary plan to come before the basic plan. I just want to make sure I state that for the record.

MR. BROWN: All right. That's helpful. Okay.

MR. BAILAN: So, Mr. Brown, if, yeah, the, the current western branch trail is located, if, I'm sorry; if we look on the, if we look at the two red sections which are the eastern and the western side of the property, the piece to the west which has more of the homes, a trail system is right behind those plotted lots along more or less the bottom red section, which outlines the property.

As you can see from that, there's no other trail in that location. The Collington trail, on the other hand, is on the eastern side of the property which is, which is on the right side of this, of this, of this exhibit; and Mr. Zyla and Mr. Burke, from the Parks Department, can give additional testimony as to, as to the status of the Collington trail. I've been made aware that there are trails currently in existence along Beechtree, which is right there to the east of this property, and also Balmoral and, and they tend to connect a number of those trails.

MR. BROWN: All right. That's fine. Did we have

in the file a certificate of good standing for Quad Construction? I didn't see it. MR. BAILAN: I could provide one if -- I wasn't 3 4 asked to provide that, but I could provide that. 5 MR. BROWN: Yeah, we need that in the file. Also, I didn't see any business affidavits. Were there any, Mr. 6 7 Horne that you filed? MR. HORNE: Not that I've seen but, again, Mr. 8 9 Bailan, we'll make sure we submit the affidavit as well. 10 That's the affidavit indicating you have not made any 11 political contributions to council members in the past three 12 years. 13 MR. BAILAN: Yeah. We do not make political contributions and have not. I can state that on the record 14 15 now and we will provide that. 16 MR. BROWN: All right. No more questions. 17 MR. HORNE: Any, any questions, Mr., Ms. Hearing 18 Examiner? 19 MS. MCNEIL: I don't have any further questions 20 and I don't see where anyone in the chat asked to cross-21 examine the witness, so you may go to your next witness. 22 MR. HORNE: Okay. The next witness is Mr. Tom 23 Burke. 24 MS. MCNEIL: Mr. Burke --

MR. BURKE: Yes?

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MS. MCNEIL: -- do you swear or affirm under the 1 penalties of perjury that the testimony you shall give will 3 be the truth and nothing but the truth? 4 MR. BURKE: Yeah. 5 MR. HORNE: Mr. Burke, can you state your name and 6 business address for the record please? Uh-oh. 7 MR. BURKE: Yeah. Good morning, Madam Hearing 8 Examiner. Good morning, Mr. Horne. For the record, my, my business address, my name is Tom Burke. I am a planner coordinator with the Park and Planning, Park, Planning and 10 11 Development Division of Department of Parks and Recreation. 12 Address is 6600 Kenilworth Avenue in Riverdale. 13 MR. BAILAN: And as part of your duties in the Parks Department at Park and Planning, does your section 14 15 where you work establish and plan master plan trails and 16 study the connectivity of the same throughout the County? 17 MR. BAILAN: Yes, that's, that is a large function 18 of our office. 19 MR. HORNE: You've heard Mr. Bailan's testimony 20 this morning with reference to the Collington trail to the 21 east of the subject property, versus the western branch, or 22 subject west of the property?

MR. HORNE: And does your department concur with Mr. Bailan's testimony with connectivity of the trails to

Yes.

MR. BURKE:

the east versus the potential for the connectivity of any trails to the west?

MR. BURKE: Yes, consistent with our recommendation, we concur.

MR. HORNE: Okay. And then can you provide the Hearing Examiner and Peoples Zoning Council this or any other additional information with reference to the application this morning?

MR. BURKE: Well, yeah, only that the, the, the proposed trail to the east along the Collington branch, that there are several segments of that trail that have been, or are under development, or in the planning stages for development; and given that there is a more likely network and that the topography is much more conducive to a trail system on the east side that, that drove our recommendations to provide that trail on the east versus the west.

MR. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Burke. That's all I have for him, Madam Hearing Examiner.

MS. MCNEIL: Okay. Mr. Brown? Excuse me one second, you all. Virtual hearings are so new to me. I still see the exhibits, do you? I need that taken down, but if you all don't see it, it's probably something wrong with my screen. Oh, thank you. Thanks so much. Mr. Burke was about this big.

Okay, Mr. Brown, do you have any questions?

MR. BROWN: Yes. I didn't see it in the file, it 1 may have been in there, but how did the Park and Planning 3 Commission and the applicant come up with the, I believe it 4 was \$200,000 figure? How did you come up with that figure? 5 MR. BURKE: Yes, and I apologize. That fee was established before I took employment with Department of 6 Parks and Recreation, but from my understanding, that fee was based on a per, per linear foot estimation. 9 MR. BROWN: And how many linear feet was the 10 (indiscernible) supposed to be? 11 MR. BURKE: Very good question. Offhand, I'm not 12 sure. Mr. Zyla might be able to speak better to that, 13 perhaps, or --14 MR. HORNE: He'll have to be sworn in if Mr. Zyla 15 (indiscernible). 16 MR. BROWN: We can swear him in now, I guess, 17 Madam Examiner. 18 MS. MCNEIL: Thank you, Mr. Brown. I will. 19 Zyla, do you swear or affirm under the penalties of perjury 20 that the testimony you shall give will be the truth and 21 nothing but the truth: 22 MR. ZYLA: I do. MS. MCNEIL: And before, can I piggyback on his 23 24 question? So, whenever you answer, it's not based on the

number of residents at all, the number of houses proposed?

25

1 Okay.

MR. ZYLA: It was based on the linear footage for the plan. Unfortunately, I don't have that exact information on there, but we do have estimates and Department of Parks and Recreation for various facilities, and we calculated, you know, based on all linear footage on the plan, you know, a dollar amount which was estimated what it would cost to install that trail. So, we kind of did that calculation and came up with that number of \$200,000 that would be a fair estimate to build that trail.

MR. BROWN: All right. I would like to have placed in the file at some point that calculation that shows X linear fee, now we placed through X number of dollars, and how you arrived at \$200,000.

MR. BURKE: Okay.

MR. BROWN: I have no further questions. Thank you.

MR. HORNE: Mr. Brown, I'm going to take --

MS. MCNEIL: I have, do you have redirect, Mr.

Horne?

MR. HORNE: No, I was just going to suggest that Mr. Bailan may know the answer to the question. I wasn't sure, but --

MR. BAILAN: No, it was, I think Mr. Zyla and Ms. Hassan, Helen Hassan at the time, who went back and did the

calculations and provided me that number. They, as, as Mr.

- $2 \parallel \text{Zyla indicated}$, it was based on the linear footage.
- 3 Obviously, I don't have the math in front of me, but, but I
- 4 was told that's the fair number to which I had to agree to
- 5 \parallel for this to proceed forth, and I did that.
- 6 MS. MCNEIL: I don't know if you, any of you can
- 7 | answer this, but I, I really sort of preferred Mr. Bailan's
- 8 | language earlier about the escalated for inflation.
- 9 normally see language where it's tied to some type of index.
- 10 | Is there a way to provide that language? Do you tie it to
- 11 something? Do you all know any better language than
- 12 | escalated for inflation?
- MR. BAILAN: Usually, it is tied to an index, and
- 14 | Park and Planning has that specific language which they put
- 15 | in all their conditions when they have these type of
- 16 | improvements or road frontage improvements, and so on, and
- 17 we can certainly provide you that language which staff uses
- 18 at the, you know, on the 4th floor, which is the Subdivision
- 19 | Section.
- 20 MS. MCNEIL: And, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Burke, it's
- 21 | Thomas Zyla, correct?
- 22 MR. ZYLA: Correct.
- 23 MS. MCNEIL: Mr. Burke has his backwards. 1
- 24 didn't know if you were Zyla Thomas. Okay. So, both Thomas
- 25 as well. Tom and Tom, can you, you all don't have any

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objection to that type of language, correct, if that's what
   Park and Planning usually uses, but I'll have the
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   applicant's attorney and the applicant submit it.
   all have any problem with tying it to some type of index?
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             MR. ZYLA: No, that's our standard procedures.
   Yes. So, no problem.
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             MS. MCNEIL: And then my question with exhibits, I
   mean Condition 16 is, the new proposed language, let's say
   you can use the money anywhere, and I thought somewhere in
   here, and I apologize, but I don't have the exact page, I
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11
   thought somewhere in here you were, you had a little more
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   detail as to where this money would be used, and is there a
13
   problem with providing that detail?
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             MR. BAILAN: I think the detail is they want to
15
   use it on the Collington trail, so --
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             MS. MCNEIL: I don't even like that because --
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             MR. BAILAN:
                          Yeah.
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             MS. MCNEIL: -- the 16 that's proposed says shall
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   be solely at the discretion of Department of Parks and
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   Recreation, and I always worry that, you know, five years
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   when we're down the road and none of us are around, things
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    change; so, it's better to give more detail and conditions.
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             MR. BAILAN: I think we could amend that, and I
24
    could provide that if, if Mr. Burke and Mr. Zyla are okay to
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amend that and add provided it shall be used on the

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Collington trail. 2 MS. MCNEIL: Well, then let me ask you this. Mr. 3 Horne, did you have any other witnesses? 4 MR. HORNE: No, ma'am, that will be it. 5 MS. MCNEIL: And, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Burke, do you 6 all have any other testimony? You can. 7 MR. ZYLA: No, Madam Hearing Examiner. MR. BURKE: No, ma'am. 8 9 MS. MCNEIL: Okay. And I don't see anybody in the chat. We're leaving this record open for several things, 10 11 Mr. Horne, so I want to repeat them. I'll start backwards. 12 I'd like revised language on 15 and 16; 15, typing the 13 monies to some type of index; and 16, tying the use of the 14 funds to a certain area. 15 MR. HORNE: Okay. 16 MS. MCNEIL: And then, Mr. Brown, also pointed out 17 that we need those ethics affidavits. We also need a 18 certificate of good standing for Quad Construction. 19 MR. BROWN: And then he also mentioned the \$200,000, how it's tied --20 21 MS. MCNEIL: Right. Information as to how the 22 200,000 amounts was estimated, what was it based on? 23 MR. BROWN: Yes. And, yes, okay. 24 MS. MCNEIL: Okay? Did you want to say anything

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further?

1	MR. HORNE: No, ma'am, except for I just want to
2	say thank you. I thank you again. As Mr. Bailan's
3	testimony indicated, no way, you know, cuts back on the
4	quality of the development of, for the Forest Hills site;
5	but, in fact, allows for Park and Planning in the general
6	Prince George's County community as a whole to enjoy a nice
7	trail that's in the process of being developed along the
8	Collington, so it's a win-win situation for everybody
9	involved. We thank you for your
10	MS. MCNEIL: Okay.
11	MR. HORNE: consideration today.
12	MS. MCNEIL: I thank you all for being here and
13	have a great day. Thank you.
14	MR. BAILAN: Thank you very much. Thank you.
15	MR. BURKE: Thank you.
16	MR. ZYLA: Thank you.
17	MR. BROWN: Thank you. Bye.
18	MS. MCNEIL: I'm only here to make sure we're
19	cutting off. There you go. Thank you.
20	(Whereupon, the hearing was concluded.)
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DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC., hereby certifies that the attached pages represent an accurate transcript of the electronic sound recording of the proceedings before the Prince George's County Office of the Zoning Hearing Examiner in the matter of:

FOREST HILLS

Case No. A-9895-01

By:

Tracy Hahn, Transcriber