

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022



**Applicant:** Tom Faulhaber

**Request:** Final Plat of "Faulhaber's Second Addition"

**Legal Description:** A replat of Lot 1, Faulhaber's First Addition, part of the SW 1/4 of fractional Section

14 and part of the SE 1/4 of Section 15, in LeClaire Township (Parcel ID#:

951539101).

**General Location:** 23347 277<sup>th</sup> Street

**Zoning:** Single Family Residential (R-1)

**Surrounding Zoning:** 

North: Agricultural-General (A-G)
South: Single-Family Residential (R-1)
East: Agricultural-General (A-G)
West: Agricultural-Preservation (A-P)

GENERAL COMMENTS: This request is for approval of a Final Plat of a 2-lot minor subdivision of an approximately 14.58-acre tract, more or less, at 23347 277<sup>th</sup> Street in LeClaire Township. The proposed subdivision would consist of Lot 1, an 11.75 acre lot with an existing single-family home, and Lot 2, a 2.83 acre lot which would have a single family home in the future, if approved.

Staff REVIEW: Staff has reviewed this request for compliance with the requirements of the Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Ordinances for Final Plat approval. This subdivision is classified as a minor plat because it creates less than five (5) lots and would not involve the extension of any new streets or other public services.

#### **Zoning, Land Use, and Lot Layout**

The proposed Plat would subdivide the approximately 14.58-acre tract that is currently zoned R-1 into two (2) lots. There is already a single-family home on Lot 1. The applicant would like family to build a home close to their existing home. They are proposing to create Lot 2 for this purpose. Lot 2 would be a 2.83-acre lot and this subdivision would create a development right to construct a single-family home on said Lot 2.

Directly to the east of this property is Olathea Creek Vineyard and Winery, an ag-tourism use. The winery is accessed from Great River Road to the east. To the north of the subject property is untilled agricultural land. Adjacent to the south is a single family residence and tilled farmland. Across the street to the west we have a similar mix of a few single family residences and tilled agland.

#### **Access and Roadway Improvements**

Currently, the existing single-family home on the subject property has access off of 277<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The applicant plans for the proposed Lot 2 to share a driveway with Lot 1. Not only is it difficult with the topography to construct a second driveway, but it is also against County policy to have another driveway here. Scott County requires a 30 feet minimum difference between each driveway. In addition, a 6:1 slope is required on the sides of the driveways. The County only



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allows shared driveways with an approved access easement. The applicant has added an access easement to the plat to allow shared access and maintenance of the driveway which will serve both Lot 1 and Lot 2. Secondary Roads has reviewed this proposal and approves.

#### **Stormwater Management**

This proposal does not include any new roadways and is only a two lot subdivision, so staff would not see any need for a storm water management plan.

#### **Erosion and Sediment Control Plan**

Erosion Control Plans are typically submitted and reviewed by the County Engineer in conjunction with the road construction plans. Since this proposal does not include any new roadways, an Erosion Control Plan is not required.

#### Wastewater Disposal and Water Provision

This proposal was sent to the County Health Department for its review. The Health Department stated that there should be no issues as long as there is no extensive dirt work on the parcel.

#### **City of Princeton Review**

This property is within two miles of the Princeton city limits. Therefore, review and approval of the Final Plat by the City of Princeton is required. At this time, staff has notified the City of the Final Plat submittal but has not received formal approval/consent. The Plat will not be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for its consideration until formal approval/consent is received.

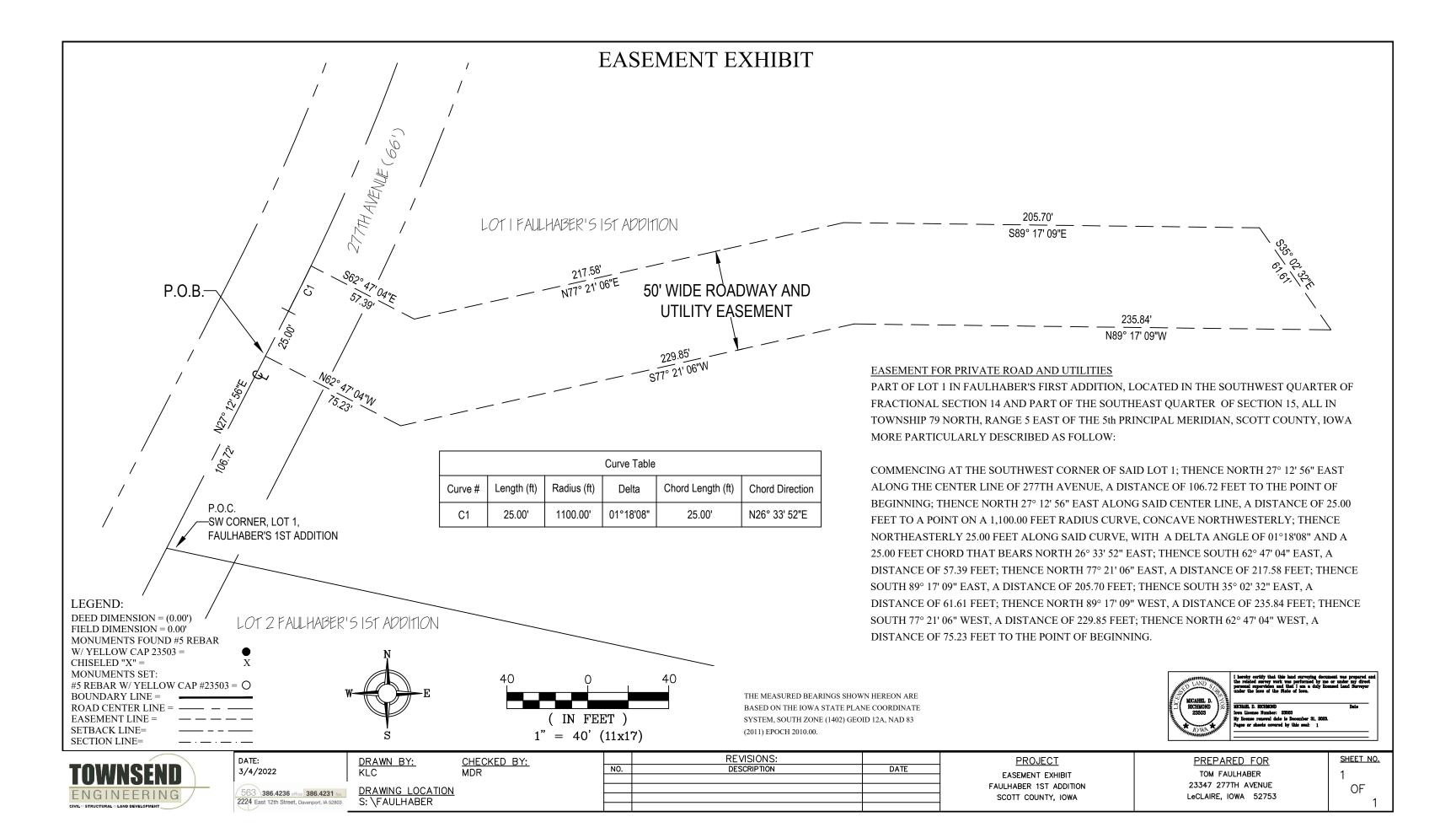
#### **Others Notified**

The Subdivision Ordinance requires additional notification of the following County Departments and local entities: Assessor, Auditor, and District Soil Conservationist Staff. Those entities did not have any comments at this time. Staff also notified adjacent property owners within five hundred feet (500') of the public hearing before the Planning Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Final Plat of Faulhaber's Second Addition be approved with the following conditions:

1. The City of Princeton approve the Final Plat before Board of Supervisors approval/denial.

Submitted by: Christopher Mathias, Director March 11, 2022



From: McClurg, Jan - NRCS-CD, Davenport, IA

To: Mathias, Christopher (Chris)

**Subject:** [External Email] RE: [External Email] notice of subdivision

**Date:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 9:35:26 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Scott County! Do not click links, open attachments or reply, unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe!

Chris, I shared your email with Jennifer Turner, NRCS District Conservationist for Scott County. We have no concerns or questions on the notice of subdivision for Tom Faulhaber. Thank you.

#### Jan McClurg

Conservation Assistant



Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District 8370 Hillandale Rd Davenport IA 52806 563.391.1403 x3

jan.mcclurg@ia.nacdnet.net

From: Mathias, Christopher (Chris) < Chris. Mathias@scottcountyiowa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 9:26 AM

To: McClurg, Jan - NRCS-CD, Davenport, IA < Jan. McClurg@ia.nacdnet.net>

**Subject:** [External Email]notice of subdivision

#### [External Email]

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Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: <a href="mailto:Spam.Abuse@usda.gov">Spam.Abuse@usda.gov</a>

Hi Jan,

We received this simple two lot subdivision from Tom Faulhaber. This is north of LeClaire. I attached the plat and the notice that went to the North Scott Press. Let me know if you have any concerns or questions.

# Christopher J. Mathias, AICP Director, Scott County Planning & Development

P: 563 326-8212

E: <a href="mailto:chris.mathias@scottcountyiowa.gov">chris.mathias@scottcountyiowa.gov</a>
A: 600 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Davenport, IA 52801

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From: Hoskins, Jack

To: <u>Mathias, Christopher (Chris)</u>
Subject: RE: [External Email] Faulhaber

Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 8:32:58 AM

#### Chris

Not knowing the purpose of the split, I am going to assume it will be for a single family, residential home. If this is the case, there should be no issues as long as there is no extensive dirt work on the parcel. Let me know if you have any other questions.

#### Jack

Jack Hoskins Environmental Health Specialist 600 W 4<sup>th</sup> St Davenport, IA 52801

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jack.hoskins@scottcountyiowa.gov | www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health

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From: Mathias, Christopher (Chris) < Chris. Mathias@scottcountyiowa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 8:40 AM

**To:** Kersten, Angela <Angela.Kersten@scottcountyiowa.gov>; Hoskins, Jack

<Jack.Hoskins@scottcountyiowa.gov>
Subject: FW: [External Email] Faulhaber

I have this simple two lot subdivision going to P & Z next week. See any issues?

**From:** Kevin Cox < kevin@townsendengineering.net >

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2022 2:36 PM

**To:** Mathias, Christopher (Chris) < <a href="mailto:Chris.Mathias@scottcountyiowa.gov">Chris.Mathias@scottcountyiowa.gov</a>

Subject: [External Email] Faulhaber

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Scott County! Do not click links, open attachments or reply, unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe!

Attached is the revised Subdivision. Tom thought it was a good idea just to remove the easement completely. It will be up to is attorney to write an easement into the deed when the Lot is

conveyed. Do you want revised hardcopies delivered?

Kevin Cox
Townsend Engineering
(563) 386-4236
2224 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street
Davenport, IA 52803
kevin@Townsendengineering.net



# Planning & Development Scott County, Iowa

**Chris Mathias, Director** 

Email: planning@scottcountyiowa.gov

Office: (563) 326-8643 Fax: (563) 326-8257 Administrative Center 600 West Fourth Street Davenport, Iowa 52801-1106

# SCOTT COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION Tuesday, January 18, 2022 5:00 P.M.

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

1st Floor Board Room 600 West 4th Street Davenport, IA 52801

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joan Maxwell\*, Steve Piatak, Lori Rochau, Carolyn Scheibe, Hans

Schnekloth, Kurt Steward\*

MEMBERS ABSENT: Easton Armstrong

Zoning Board of Adjustment

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Jordahl, Whitney Kyllo, Mary Beth Madden, Myron

Scheibe

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Dittmer

**Board of Supervisors** 

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Beck, Ken Croken, Brinson Kinzer, Tony Knobbe, John

Maxwell\*

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Mathias, Planning & Development Director

Alan Sabat, Planning & Development Specialist

Bailey Van Hoe, Senior Office Assistant Mahesh Sharma, County Administrator\*

David Farmer, Budget & Administrative Services Director\*

Mary Thee, Assistant County Administrator\*

**OTHERS PRESENT:** One (1) member of the press

- 1. **Call to Order: Chair Scheibe** called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.
- 2. <u>Minutes</u>: Consideration of November 16, 2021 meeting minutes. Piatak made a motion to approve. Seconded by Rochau. Vote: All Ayes (6-0)

<sup>\*</sup>Some members and staff participated virtually.

3. Joint Meeting: Mathias said there continues to be interest in locating a utility-scale solar operation in or near Scott County, and explained that the current Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan addressed renewable energy, but the regulations within the Ordinance address only residential-scale wind and solar energy. Mathias said since the Comprehensive Plan contains both an objective to plan for renewable energy and an objective to preserve productive agricultural land, the County would need to consider the impacts allowing and expanding renewable energy operations would have on the objective to preserve agricultural land.

Mathias presented a Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) map of Scott County, which shows high ratings (60+) across the majority of the County, and the Zoning map, which shows the almost the entirety of the highly-rated land within the Agricultural-Preservation (A-P) Zoning district. Mathias then showed a CSR map highlighting only the areas with CSR ratings under 60, proposing that perhaps the County could consider limiting utility-scale renewable energy uses to only those areas. Mathias finished by saying he envisioned either implementing a new "Floating zone" district in the Ordinance that could regulate utility-scale renewable energy uses (which would be preferred), or creating a new Special Use Permit option for proposed projects.

**John Maxwell** asked why the proposed threshold was 60 CSR. **Knobbe** said it was, historically, the dividing line between A-P and Agricultural-General (A-G) zones. **John Maxwell** said he felt 60 seemed pretty high and suggested 50 CSR instead. **Joan Maxwell** asked if slope could also be a standard to limit loss of "flat black." **Mathias** said the utility company approaching the County has been pretty clear that it is only interested in a flat site.

**John Maxwell** reiterated that the utility company's stated interest is to be near existing grid infrastructure, which **Chair Scheibe** and **Steward** agreed was not a good enough standard for site selection. **Beck** pointed out most of the sites near existing substations would be zoned A-P.

**Knobbe** asked what was known about the decommissioning process. **Mathias** said the representative from Alliant who attended the September 7, 2021 Commission meeting couldn't forecast how that process would unfold, which he acknowledged was a concern.

**Jordahl** asked whether there was a minimum amount of land Alliant was seeking for the project. **Mathias** said other existing projects were at minimum 800-1,000 acres. **Jordahl** said at that scale, she would want more information about decommissioning before moving forward.

**Joan Maxwell** took issue with a point the Alliant representative made at the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting: that they wanted to locate somewhere that wouldn't be "limiting development in established cities." **Maxwell** said the proposed site to the west of Davenport *would*, in fact, limit development for the established city of Davenport.

**Croken** said he believed the County should engage with Alliant more so there weren't any assumptions about what their positions were.

**Myron Scheibe** said if it were made part of a development agreement, the County may be forced to decommission the site on its own.

**Kinzer** said he understood the balancing act between helping the consumer and protecting agricultural land, and expressed interest in lowering the CSR threshold.

**Kyllo** asked whether the goal was to attract or repel utility-scale projects. **Mathias** said that was the challenge presented in the Comprehensive Plan: we're trying to plan for renewable energy while also preserving farmland.

Chair Scheibe said the first priority of the Comprehensive Plan is to preserve agricultural land.

**Croken** said we have the best soil on the planet and it was crucial to preserve it, but that coping with climate change is a very urgent motivation for trying to open the County to renewable energy projects. **Chair Scheibe** responded that the production of solar panels themselves is not environmentally friendly and that there were many urban locations for siting them such as above parking lots. **Croken** responded that he wanted to do what he could for his grandkids and the County's policies have to show that they were trying.

**Beck** said it's clear everyone's top priority is agricultural preservation. But if the County is going to tell utility companies where they *can't* locate, it also has to tell them where they *can*. Then it's up to the companies to tell the County they're not interested instead of the other way around.

**Knobbe** said he agreed, and that he wanted the regulations regarding how the CSR ratings are calculated to be very clear.

**Kyllo** said she found utility-scale solar projects in southern Minnesota unsightly and would rather see hog barns.

**Joan Maxwell** reminded staff that there were other renewable energy production options to address besides solar.

**Mathias** said he intended to further investigate the parcels highlighted in the "under 60 CSR" map to see what they actually looked like in terms of CSR rating distribution and topography, and also to reengage with Alliant to see how feasible a project would be within those areas.

- 4. Other Business: Joan Maxwell said she felt the existing minimum lot size standards were not realistic for accommodating modern septic systems. Joan Maxwell also said the site clearing process undergone during development was leading to too much soil loss. Knobbe said of the latter that losses would be very difficult to measure and even more difficult to enforce.
- 5. <u>Adjournment:</u> With no further public comments and no other business to discuss, Chair Scheibe adjourned the meeting at 5:55 P.M.