



29 January 2009

Karen Wonders, PhD.
Research Fellow, Institute for the History of Science
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Papendiek 16
D - 37073 Göttingen, Germany

Dear Dr. Wonders,

Subject: Z-08-06; South Skirt Mountain Comprehensive Development Rezoning;

Thank you for your letter of January 23rd, 2009, which Council will consider in conjunction with a Public Hearing for the aforementioned rezoning application at a future date to be determined.

As your letter is written on your university's letterhead, I am curious to know whether you are writing officially on behalf of your university (or, for that matter, the Institute for the History of Science) and whether your colleagues and administrators are aware of, and approve of the content of your letter. The reason for my concern is that I find the inaccuracies and bias in your letter (not to mention the vitriol) so incredible that they betray an utter lack of rigor for even the most basic research that would have been necessary to ascertain the facts in this matter, or for that matter the veracity of your source material. I would have thought that a person holding a position of "Research Fellow" would have had the ability to research basic and easily available facts, rather than (as you have done) spin on fanciful misinformation being offered by Zoe Blunt, Ben Isitt and Cheryl Bryce.

On the off chance that you are still interested in informing yourself with fact, you may obtain a comprehensive report prepared for the City's Planning, Zoning and Affordable Housing Committee from the City of Langford website at the address noted above, or by contacting my office directly.

Finally, I must inform you that I was tempted to forward your letter to the City's legal counsel, as I found the defamatory remarks at the close of your letter border on what might be successfully argued as libelous in a court of law. If you wish to engage either myself or City of Langford staff further, I would suggest that adopting a more polite and respectful tone would result in a more fruitful dialogue where factual information and matters of opinion may be shared without attack.

Yours truly,

Matthew Baldwin, BA, MCP, MCIP, RPP
City Planner

Cc: Prof. Dr. Nicolaas A. Rupke, Director, Institute for the History of Science (nrupke@gwdg.de);
Prof. Dr. Kurt von Figura, President, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (praesident@uni-goettingen.de)