

**Normal Neighborhood Working Group**

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Mon, Oct 27, 2014 08:43 AM

**Subject :** Normal Neighborhood Working Group 1 attachment**To :** goldmanb@ashland.or.us, rpkaplan46@gmail.com, pam@ashland.or.us, mike@council.ashland.or.us, john@council.ashland.or.us

The October 23rd. working group meeting was excellent, with enlightened discussions. As always, I appreciate your dedication.

I felt badly that Mr. Livni expressed concerns that the wildlife corridor and wetland may impede his property development. I know that is not the intent of any of the neighbors. My concerns regarding the flow of water through Cemetery Creek come from my reading of the submitted Livni and the Mahar wetland studies. Areas of wetland have been documented as changed, but Cemetery Creek is still jurisdictional, and it's role in dispersing water and providing a wildlife corridor are important. Cemetery Creek was a drainage for uplands long before roads, ditches and buildings impeded the water's progress.

To keep the corridor open for wildlife, existing cottonwoods and willows need to stay in place for habitat and cover. This refers to the low areas on either side of the Creek, which would already be within the allowed setback guidelines. The cottonwoods are native, and help to soak up water. The willows help to shore up the banks. The land downstream, including the Livni property, would maybe require conduits as part of the development so that high water can exit and not back up. I don't see this as a deterrent to housing, but a guideline. Please refer to the FEMA Floodplain Map of 05/03/11. Some of the neighbors on Cemetery Creek have seen water rise quickly, and then flush.

Our hope is that water as well as wildlife will be taken into consideration, and that development can proceed in an enlightened manner.

Thank you for all you do,

Jan Vidmar  
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**Flood Zone Comparison Map 5-11.pdf**536 KB

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