

Excerpt taken from Northwest Observer Forum (nwobserver.mywowbb.com)

2007-01-07 15:43:00 [doggettja]

Whoa! Wait a minute Jim I do take exception to some of your posting on affordable housing. First let me say that in the 3 towns in the Northwest there are a total of maybe 20 people in the "government". These 20 people can not possibly be responsible for driving all the changes needed in this area. There are probably 10 times as many people in construction who are interested in keeping the development as it exists now, so if we as a community want to have affordable housing then we as a community have to drive it. It is unfair and just not possible to expect the elected officials to do this with no drive from the community. They after all supposedly represent the community.

Having said that Summerfield has on numerous occasions over the years discussed different ways to provide affordable housing and in fact actually moved to buy some property to provide off site septic for the core of Summerfield, which would have allowed for the smaller lots and smaller hopefully more affordable housing. There was a large out cry by the neighbors, no support by anyone else other than those on the council and the idea was dropped.

Summerfield has also discussed changing the ordinances and offering incentives of greater density to developers to allow for some affordable housing but here again there has been virtually no support from the community. Also because of the lack of community septic and water to some extent lots can only be so small.

I can only speak for Summerfield but I have been very concerned about this issue but I certainly feel I am in the minority with the comment I most often heard "but what about property values?"