## Goodrich Springs - Major Preliminary Plat

## Applicants:

Randol \& Cynthia Goodrich Trust (Property Owner)
Joel Preston, Nilles Associates (Consultant / Surveyor)

## Request:

Preliminary Plat approval of a Major Subdivision Plat creating one (1) residential lot.

## Legal Description:

Approximately 4.99 acres, being part of the south $1 / 2$ of the southwest $1 / 4$ of the southwest $1 / 4$ of Section 25, Township 81 North, Range 23 West of the $5^{\text {th }}$ P.M. (Elkhart Township)

## General Location:

The subject property is located east of NE 64 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Street and north of NE $126^{\text {th }}$ Avenue being approximately 375 feet north of the intersection of these two streets.

## Existing Zoning:

"ER" Estate Residential District

## Surrounding Zoning:

North: "AG" Agricultural District
South: "ER" Estate Residential District
East: "AG" Agricultural District
West: "ER" Estate Residential District

## Waiver Request (See Attachment ' $C^{\prime}$ ):

Lot not to exceed three (3) acres in size in areas without public sanitary sewer.
Maximum flagpole length of four hundred (400) feet.

## GENERAL COMMENTS:

This preliminary plat (Attachment " $B$ ") proposes to create one (1) developable lot and one (1) street lot on approximately 4.99 acres zoned "ER" Estate Residential District. The subject property is part of the south $1 / 2$ of the southwest $1 / 4$ of the southwest $1 / 4$ of Section 25 , Township

81 North, Range 23 West of the $5^{\text {th }}$ P.M (Elkhart Township). The site is entirely zoned "ER" Estate Residential District and contains no existing development or structures. The current land use is natural resources/open space with the eastern half of the property containing mature woodlands. Properties to the west and south are also zoned "ER" Estate Residential. Land to the east is zoned "AG" Agriculture and currently used in row crop production. Land to the north is zoned "AG" Agriculture and is "Outlot X" of the T and T Estates platted in 2011. See Attachment " $A$ " for a vicinity map of the subject property and surrounding area

The intent behind the proposed preliminary plat (Attachment " B ") and associated plat of survey (recorded Book 19722; Page 309) is to create one developable lot by providing access and street frontage west onto NE 64 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Street. The subject property, in its previous configuration, was a land locked parcel situating behind (east) of 12875 NE $64^{\text {th }}$ Street. Without proper street frontage, this parcel would have essentially been undevelopable. A plat of survey was approved and recorded in 2023 (Book 19722; Page 309) as well as a lot tie agreement (Book 29637; Page 618) to provide a forty (40) foot strip of land from the property owners at 12875 NE $64^{\text {th }}$ Street to gain street access. All land associated with this preliminary plat is now under single ownership.

There is one street lot ( $\operatorname{Lot} A$ ) required to transfer existing road easement fronting the property along NW $146^{\text {th }}$ Avenue over to Polk County as deeded right-of-way at time of final plat and acceptance.

## Utilities/Natural Resources

The subject property is presently composed of natural resources, including existing mature woodlands. The plat will include an easement to capture the natural topography and mature woodlands through the site, and prevent encroachment of future development in these areas. The approximate eastern $1 / 2$ of the site contains areas of mature woodlands. Per the Polk County Zoning Ordinance, a minimum of $75 \%$ of these mature woodlands must be protected. The site topography is sloping from high to low moving from west to east across the property. The high elevation on the western portion of the site is approximately 890 extending the depth of the property (approximately 908 feet) east to a low of approximately 840.

Public water is available and will be supplied to the parcel. There is an existing three (3) inch water line extending along the east side of NE $64{ }^{\text {th }}$ Street. A ten (10) foot utility easement is proposed on the east and north of street lot A. Wastewater treatment needs for this lot will be met with a private septic system, to be designed and installed at the expense of the owner at the time of future home construction. NE $64^{\text {th }}$ Street is a paved, two-lane roadway maintained by Polk County. Engineering staff has reviewed the preliminary plat and did not have any concerns with future driveway locations or sight distances.

## Waivers

The proposed subdivision plat will require a waiver from the following requirement:
Lot not to exceed three (3) acres in size in areas without public sanitary sewer.
Have a maximum flagpole length of four hundred (400) feet.

The Applicants have requested a waiver from these standards. Please see Attachment ' $C$ ' for the submitted waiver request.

## STAFF REVIEW:

Staff has reviewed this plat for compliance with the Polk County Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances as a major subdivision plat submittal. The lot would fall under the flag lot standards for development. Flag Lot is defined as "a lot, created by subdivision, with lot width at the street frontage less than is required for the district, and composed of a narrow "flagpole" strip extending from the street and is connected to a wider "flag" portion lying behind a lot or lots have the required street frontage".

The plat is considered a major subdivision due to the requested lot size and flagpole length waiver. The Polk County Subdivision Ordinance stipulates that the maximum flagpole length is four hundred (400) feet. As measured, the flag pole length is 406 feet. Additionally, the ordinance requires lots without public sanitary sewer to not exceed three (3) acres in size. The lot is 4.99 acres in size. Staff understands the parcel in its previous configuration as a landlocked parcel was essentially unbuildable and is supportive of this preliminary plat to memorialize street frontage access and required easements for natural resource protection in order for the owner to construct a home on this property.

Following the Zoning Commission's recommendation, and addressing remaining staff comments, the applicants may forward the preliminary plat and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration and approval. If approved by the Board of Supervisors a final plat and required legal documents may be prepared and submitted for the County's review, final approval and recording. At this stage, the Commission's recommendation would affirm, deny, or amend the overall plat layout.

The subject property lies within the two-mile review jurisdiction of the City of Elkhart and the City has placed this item on the March $25^{\text {th }}$ City Council agenda for review. They were also notified of the previous plat of survey and waived their right to review.

## RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Preliminary Plat of Goodrich Springs, including the requested waiver to the flag pole length and lot size requirements.

## Goodrich Springs

## Major Preliminary Plat

PLAT INFORMATION: This preliminary plat proposes the creation of one developable lot on approximately 5 acres zoned "ER" Estate Residential District. The subject property is located approximately 380 feet north of the intersection of NE 64th St and NE 126th Ave within Section 36 of Elkhart Township.

SEWER: Individual Septic Systems
TOWNSHIP: Elkhart

WATER: Des Moines Water Works (DMWW)
OWNER \& DEVELOPER: Randol \& Cynthia Goodrich

Vicinity Map:




March 19, 2024

Polk County Zoning Commission
Polk County Planning Division
5885 NE $14^{\text {th }}$ Street
Les Koines, Iowa 50313

## RE: Goodrich Springs - Preliminary Plat - $\mathbf{1}^{\text {st }}$ Review Comments

## Honorable Members of the Zoning Commission:

The Goodrich family respectfully requests that the Zoning Commission approve a waiver for the inclusion of a flag lot in the proposed subdivision. This waiver is essential to facilitate the development of a single buildable lot on a previously inaccessible and undevelopable parcel of land. The creation of a flag lot would provide the necessary access for development.

We seek the Commission's approval to relax the standard lot size requirement of less than 3 acres to allow for the 4.99 acre proposed lot, and also the requirement for the flag lot length to be less than 400 feet and allow a length of $406^{\prime}$.

Should there be any inquiries or a need for further details, please do not hesitate to reach out for additional discussion. We appreciate your consideration and time.

Sincerely,
Aden Schopppner
Adam Schoeppner, PLS
NILES ASSOCIATES, INC.

