
Fw: Opposition to Draft Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw

From Mike Wilson <mike.wilson@cverd.bc.ca>

Date Sat 3/28/2026 6:48 PM

To Zoning <Zoning@cverd.bc.ca>; legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cverd.bc.ca>

With Best Regards

Mike

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From: Matthew McNeill [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 3:15 PM
To: Public Hearings <publichearings@cverd.bc.ca>
Cc: Mike Wilson <mike.wilson@cverd.bc.ca>
Subject: Opposition to Draft Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw

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Hello

My name is Matthew McNeill and I live in Cobble Hill on a small hobby farm.

I would like to voice my opposition for the wording in the new Bylaw 4710.

Under Bylaw 4710 it lumps all horse farms under one large "Equestrian Centre" definition.

There are currently many small farms that have been operating in the CVRD for years that provide extra space to board horses for other people who live in the CVRD that do not own acreage. This provides a much needed place where people can go ride and be part of the community they live and work in if they do not own their own acreage. There seems to be no logical reason to limit this to only properties greater than 4 ha when this was previously allowed under prior zoning. I think this is an oversight error.

These are not large scale commercial operations causing disruption to neighbours or community services.

What happens to these existing properties now that were previously allowed? Where do these horses go?

I am also concerned about my own zoning being proposed:

Under my existing zoning Cobble Hill R-3 we are allowed "limited agriculture, on parcels 0.4 ha or larger" which includes an equestrian centre and horse riding arena. We live on 3 acres and keep our horses at home.

Under the new proposed zoning we would be now zoned R-2 which does not have agriculture or limited agriculture under the allowable uses. The new zoning bylaw specifically states no livestock in any zone that does not permit agriculture or limited agriculture. Where are our horses supposed to live? What about the hundreds of thousands of dollars we spent building our private hobby farm that was previously allowed under the old zoning? Is all of this now worthless? How do we maintain our pastures if we are now longer allowed livestock?

We live in a rural area surrounded by other neighbors who all live on acreages as well.

Agriculture is part of what makes Cowichan Valley great. We do not live in a city or live in a residential development. Our property does not have community water or sewer. We live in a 3 acre field.

This also seems like an oversight error.

Please let me know what will happen to my and my horses home if the proposed changes go through?

Thanks

Matthew McNeill

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