

June 17, 2009

Richard Jones  
Department of Public Works  
730 Wisconsin Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403

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Dept of Public Works

RE: Landscaping at 3433 Victorian Dr.

Dear Mr. Jones,

I have been advised by Peter Eggert that a complaint has been filed against me reference the landscaping I am doing in front of my house.

He advised me that I would have to contact you in order to get on the agenda for a hearing in regards to this issue.

As you know last year, the ditches were re-designed on our street. In this process my particular ditch was lowered substantially. I did follow through last year and they did raise the angle of the drainage pipe under my driveway approximately a foot. At that time I also asked why they had placed a longer drainage pipe under my driveway than what was there before and nobody could seem to give me an answer. By placing a shorter pipe (approximately 2 feet shorter) this also would have made the ditch approximately 8 to 12 inches higher yet, making it approximately the height it was before. I do realize that there was some erosion going on but it was not that much. It is not like we have running water in this ditch anyway.

Because of this modification, the areas by the driveway that I have to mow are substantially steeper and making it very difficult for me to now the grass.

As others on the block have put in retaining walls, I thought that this would be a perfectly acceptable solution to the problem, although it is costing me a lot of money. I felt my safety was more important.

I have not nor do I intent to impede the very little flow of water through the ditches. This is not my intention. My only intention was to eliminate the steep embankment to mow.

I have enclosed a picture of what has been started. As you can see the back wall which I do not believe is on the city right of way (If I remember the driveways where cut on the line) I then decided I would add a garden area in front for everyone to enjoy.

The other project I also was attempting to do, if you look at the picture was to just raise the ground around the mailbox. I have explained to the person putting this in, that we cannot go near the road and the actual wall would only go as high as the level ground by the road. I would then just plant grass in that area. There would be no impediment of snowplows etc. and if in the future they redo the road I would be able to remove whatever items were requested. My intent would be to use the same brick as on the other side of the ditch.

I also know that anything done within the city right of way would have to be removed at my expense if it impeded a city project.

If anyone there has any other ideas on how I can make mowing my yard easier, than what I am doing, I would appreciate any suggestions.

As you can see when you drive down Victorian Dr. that there are many retaining walls. When the City reconstructed the ditches, nobody was asked to remove any walls, so I guess I did not feel that there was any problems with adding a retaining wall. The city and arcitects seemed very cooperative and interested in leaving the retaining walls in if at all possible. This made me feel that our city does appreciate what people do to improve the looks of their homes.

Thank you for any consideration in this matter. Please advise me what my next step is, in order to conclude this matter.

Sincerely,



Ann Berka  
3433 Victorian Dr.  
Racine, WI 53406  
Phone: 598-8552

