

**TOWN OF LA CONNER
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
July 18, 2023**

The Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Carol Hedlin, Marna Hanneman, Bruce Bradburn, John Leaver, Sommer Holt

Commissioners absent: None

Staff: Michael Davolio, Ajah Eills

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chip Hall, who owns property on First Street, spoke to make the Planning Commission aware of the ongoing dispute with DNR regarding the DNR leases next to 317 N. 1st St and 319 N. 1st St. He got approval for a marina building in 2021 and is concerned that the DNR lease will block access to the potential marina.

Jean Wharton, who lives on Second Street, expressed concern about the Town's treatment of trees. She reported seeing many trees being strangled by ivy around Town, and stated that heat and carbon are everyone's problem, and even if the trees in question are on private property, the air itself is not private. She stated her belief that the Town should look into ways to get water to trees.

Marilyn Thostenson, who lives on Whatcom Street, expressed a memory of an old plan for the commercial transition area that was made in 1991. She said it was very forward thinking, but the council did not approve it. She would like to see a similar development take place now.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Leaver moved to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2023 meeting with corrections. Seconded by Commissioner Bradburn. **Motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no new information about the Talmon Development. Staff discussed a future meeting with the La Conner School District in order to present to students in the senior class as part of the Public Participation Program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Staff presented information on how the City of Kirkland plans for affordable housing units, how the MRSC recommends planning for affordable housing units, and potential ways these recommendations could be implemented in La Conner. Staff proposed potential High Density Residential Housing regulations. There was discussion of the proposed High Density Residential regulations. This discussion then led to a discussion of short-term rental regulations. No formal action was taken.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/STAFF COMMENTS:

Commissioner Holt expressed a belief that short-term rentals can undermine the safety and community of a neighborhood, and that short-term rentals should not be allowed in High-Density Residential areas. Commissioner Hanneman asked for clarification on the Commercial Transition zone, inquired about a potential trip to Langley, and requested that Staff begin to work with Skagit County on the possibility of establishing pre-approved building plans.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be on August 1, 2023.

With no further business Commissioner Leaver moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Hanneman. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Carol Hedli
Chair

8/1/2023
Date