

Dear Residents, Business people, Farmers, and Council -

Mark your calendars. SEPTEMBER 20 & SEPTEMBER 27. Although there is nothing on the town calendar now to alert you to the importance of these dates, the outcome of those meetings could compromise farmland and relocate the town center.

How hard would it have been for the town to write that at the meeting on the 20th "This will be the only PC meeting at which residents may present code change requests if those requests were sent to the planner prior to that meeting"? And of the TC meeting just a short week later, "This is the last public meeting at which to make comment on the proposed zone changes.

A couple items the many items being proposed by town:

1. Change to the setback rule on property adjacent to farmland. Currently it is 25 feet. The proposal is to allow 15 or 10 feet of the setback to the adjacent home owners so could have patios (although when they built they knew the requirement). The previous planner granted them variances (variances do not set precedence). The Mayor knew.
2. Likely height increase to 40 feet at the Port - the size of the Maverick building - which needs that size for their giant boats. No one lives in that building.
3. Two new zones called Port Commercial and Port Industrial. No one knows what the language will be that goes with those classifications. I am guessing that they will be whatever is asked for by the Port. (I plan to resist this. Our current residential and current commercial are adequate for all of the town.)

Some items that will likely be proposed by residents.

1. Climate change code changes. – re requirements for EV chargers in developments of over a certain amount, new homes over a certain square footage, solar over at least 50% of port buildings, and respite parking for high water events.
2. A requirement that the only residential uses at the port be solely for officially affordable housing work with the Home Trust or similar agency to make residential a hundred percent affordable as defined by the government agency that defines such things and within 30 " height. The Port is a public agency, not a private developer. They work for us.
3. Language about how parking requirements for one entity cannot be erased by another and that all residential units be physically checked for the size stated on the plans.
4. Language about when and how agendas should be published on the town site so as to increase transparency
5. Language requiring that the requests for variances be published and that variances strictly be only considered for circumstances as described in the code. All variances should require a public meeting.
6. All hiring of people in town hall - Admin, planner, enforcer - involve a committee of council, residents - using the same procedure as used in school hirings.

Your voice matters. Make it heard.

Linda Talman

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The only real job of a public official is to make their grandchildren proud. That's called vision.....

Linda

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