

Linda Clark
(360) 391-1431

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Town of La Conner
Planning Commission
Town Council Members

Re: Parking Spaces, etc.

Dear Town Council Members:

“We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.” Albert Einstein

1. There have recently been news articles and letters to you concerning the lack of parking for Brandon Atkinson’s proposed building on Center Street, that the two parking spot minimum for tiny houses be removed in favor of one parking spot and the remainder pushed to street parking, and parking in general. Because of these articles and letters, I thought it might be helpful for you and the residents to have a better understanding of the parking available in town. Please refer to the table below.¹

2. There has been discussion about the Jenson property in recent letters to you. I suggested you utilize it as a staging lot to turn La Conner into a “golf cart community.” Others have suggested a community garden, affordable housing, etc.

Here are a few others:

a. Utilize it as leverage for negotiations with Brandon Atkinson to move his proposed building outside of town. Either with a swap or to use the property as collateral to purchase a more appropriate parcel of property in town to swap with Dr. Atkinson. Then the Town could build appropriate affordable housing acceptable to the neighbors on the property currently owned by Dr. Atkinson.²

b. Utilize it as the staging lot as indicated above and then turn the current parking lot on 3rd street into a park/open space.

c. Lease it to a farmer³ and use the lease payments for town expenses.

¹ This is as accurate as possible. I wrote them down while walking and so there may be errors or discrepancies. But it should provide a good perspective of the parking available throughout town.

² Perhaps the property where the old Dunlap family home stands on Morris Street is a better location since the home there already stands pretty high in the landscape. This home is for sale again.

³ As it was pointed out that it is extremely fertile land.

3. Prior to leaving town in May 2022 for a break and some perspective I spent an hour each week picking up the litter along Maple Avenue/Pioneer Parkway and Rainbow Bridge for three or more months. The first time I picked up the litter I filled three very large garbage bags. Each week after that the amount decreased, but it never disappeared. I returned to town a week or so ago to see that aspect of keeping La Conner and its surrounding areas beautiful has been neglected yet again.

One suggestion in this regard is to put trash cans on both sides of the bridge. Although some of the litter is clearly thrown from vehicles as people drive through, the majority of it appears to be from items purchased at Pioneer Market or the Chevron station and without somewhere proper to dispose of it, pedestrians have become accustomed to throwing it on the side of the road and down the embankments.

Before the Town agrees to turn the Jenson property into something used by the community, e.g. a community garden, the residents should prove they deserve it by continually and voluntarily keeping this area free from litter as it is clear this area is just one of many that the county continues to neglect.^{4,5}

4. The Town is very short-sided when looking for funding options for projects, etc. There are numerous wealthy people in the U.S. who are willing to help small communities whether personally or through their foundations. T-Mobile has a grant program for small communities as I write this. There are also celebrities who will come and hold an event or a concert for free or for a reduced rate. All people need to do is to think outside of the box and to apply or ask.

5. This will be my last letter to the Town Council. I believe my point has been proven time and time again that the town officials serving the residents of La Conner **do not** act honorably or with integrity. The latest planning commission debacle is a one example. My criminal case is the perfect example.

Every time the residents drive by the former Hedlin Field and they see the cramped houses that were built quickly, are selling for extremely high prices, lack proper parking, etc. they should serve as a reminder that the town officials have destroyed a beautiful aspect of the town, just as they destroyed a beautiful aspect of my life in trying to make me feel guilty for having a good and loving heart.

I want the town officials who were in town hall in 2014 and today as well as the owners of the dogs to know that I forgive them. They tried to strip me of my livelihood and my home. They further tried to destroy my life, my self-worth, and my reputation. They FAILED. All they

⁴ I am quite surprised that Rick Dole has not addressed this issue as he made such a big deal of coming to ask if the newspaper could use my name and photo in an attempt to celebrate my efforts due to the fact it had gotten so bad because of Skagit County's neglect (not surprised). Of course, I declined as at the time the newspaper would likely have accused me of picking it up as part of a court-ordered community service sentence. Quite honestly, I am surprised I wasn't arrested again for addressing another issue neglected by the Town and County. 🙄

⁵ For the record, I also picked up litter along Snee-Oosh and Indian Road, my "commute" route at the time.

did is help me understand how my past affected my life and made me extremely determined to heal from it; and to create a beautiful and amazing future for myself.

The residents of La Conner need to stand up for themselves at this point. They have been duly notified that unless they keep informed of the actions of the town officials they will likely get stripped out of something else valuable and their quality of life will continue to be compromised.

My best wishes to those who continue in their efforts to inform and to hold town officials accountable for their actions.

Best regards,

Linda Clark

Location	Number of Spaces ±	Misc Info.
Parking lot on 3 rd street	70	Excluding larger vehicle spaces along fence line
1 st Street – Nasty Jack to Center Street (both sides)	25	Regularly used by guests of Channel Lodge, business owners and employees
1 st Street – Winston's General side to Calico Cupboard	37	Regularly used by business owners and employees – and residential tenants
1 st Street – Step Outside to Art Gallery	38	Regularly used by business owners and employees – and residential tenants
2 nd street (upper) (Garden Club to Town Hall)	15	
2 nd Street (upper) (Garden Club to Country Inn)	17	Often used for long-term RV parking
2 nd Street (upper)(side street parking)	6	Ad hoc parking
2 nd Street (lower)(in front of Country Inn)	5	Often used for buses
2 nd Street (next to Santo Coyote)	4	Regularly used for restaurant customers/employees
2 nd Street (lower) (Retirement Inn area)	24	Regularly used for Retirement Inn employees/visitors/residents
3 rd Street (lower)– gravel by private residence	2	
3 rd Street (lower) - by marina and on gravel by residence across from newspaper	31	
3 rd Street (upper)	45	Regularly used by residents and guests of Katy's Inn; many of them are on the sidewalk or very tight with space in front of residences
4 th Street (lower)	5	
4 th Street (upper)	Not included	Not really a factor at this point-in-time
5 th Street (lower)	2	
5 th Street (upper)	Not included	Not really a factor at this point-in-time
6 th Street (lower)	11	
6 th Street (upper)	Not included	Not really a factor at this point-in-time

Calhoun (next to Quilt Museum)	4	On gravel
Washington Street -- in front of wellness building (by post office)	2	
Washington Street -- Across from wellness building (by post office)	5	Regularly used by locals to park inoperable vehicles or trailers
Morris Street – by bathrooms	3	
Morris Street – next to new brewery	1	Regularly used by Pioneer Market customers
Morris Street – next to Pioneer Market	1	Regularly used by Pioneer Market customers – often used by delivery trucks for Pioneer Market
Morris Street – Thai restaurant to library	8	
Morris Street – coffee shop to bank	5	
Morris Street – coffee shop to real estate office	5	
Morris Street – hair salon to copy shop	6	
Morris Street – next to physical therapy building	7	Regularly used by Pioneer Market customers, Customers who frequent the retail spaces in nearby buildings (e.g. Soroptomist Thrift Store, Sliders Café, etc.)
Morris Street – next to building housing Sliders Café	3	
Parallel – next to Sliders	1	
Parking Lot – next to Sliders	27	Used by at least: Soroptomist Thrift Store; Fifi's, NW Fuel, Slider's, Martial Arts, general public for a fee
Parking Lot – next to Soroptomist	3	
2 nd Street - Santo Coyote	7	Approximate total including on side of street
Morris Street – next to Santo Coyote restaurant	7	
Morris Street – Back In/Parallel	6	
Morris Street – next to Country Inn	3	

Morris Street – next to Go Outside retail store	2	
Whatcom Street – next to Pioneer Market	5	Often used by delivery vehicles for Pioneer Market, RVs, trucks with trailers; will likely disappear with development of adjacent empty lot
Whatcom Street – next to Pioneer Market	3	Two on pavement; one on gravel
State Street	18	Most in front of residences and utilized by home owners or their visitors
Center Street	30	Including across and adjacent to Retirement Inn

*doesn't include parking for businesses such as Nell Thorn, Country Inn, Channel Lodge, Wild Iris Inn, Heron Inn, etc.