

TOWN OF LA CONNER PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING June 17, 2025

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

Commissioners present: John Leaver, Cynthia Elliott, Carol Hedlin Sommer Holt, Youth Advisor Maxwell Page

Commissioners absent: Bruce Bradburn

Staff: Michael Davolio, Ajah Eills

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Elliott moved to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Holt. **Motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

There were no updates for the Public Participation Program.

Staff presented an updated version of the Comprehensive Plan based on comments received from the Department of Commerce. Commissioner Elliott noted that she recommended minor clarifying changes. Commissioner Elliott expressed deep concerns regarding language around the potential causes of racially disparate impacts. Commissioner Holt echoed these concerns. There was an extensive discussion regarding this section of the Comprehensive Plan. Staff will rewrite this section to address the concerns and present an updated version to Town Council, Planning Commission, and public.

Commissioners expressed concern regarding lack of review time, in particular for Element 12, the Climate Element.

Commissioner Hedlin moved to recommend approval of the Comprehensive Plan to Town Council, with the exception of Elements 6 and 12. Commissioner Leaver seconded. Commissioners Hedlin, Holt, and Leaver voted to approve the motion. Commissioner Elliott abstained. **The motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS:



TOWN OF LA CONNER PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Notice

July 15 6PM

Upper Maple Center, La Conner WA, and Livestreamed
Information is below and on the Town Website

Skagit County Washington
Incorporated 1890
www.townoflaconner.org

Agenda

I. Convene

II. Public Comments (Topics not otherwise on the Agenda) – Time Limit 3 Minutes

III. Minutes: Approve Minutes from the June 17, 2025 meeting.

IV. Old Business

1. Status Report – Public Participation Program
 - a. ADA Update Community Mingle
2. Comprehensive Plan Update

V. New Business

1. Second Half of 2025 Goal Setting/Next Steps

VI. Closing Comments:

Live Streaming Info: <https://laconnerwa.portal.civicclerk.com/>

Commissioner Leaver opened the public hearing for LU25-31HDR at 6:43 pm. Staff explained that this project was to replace window with sliding doors. **Commissioner Hedlin moved to approve LU25-31HDR. Commissioner Holt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff thanked Commissioner Hedlin for her years of dedicated volunteer work on this Commission. Planner Davolio noted that this was his last meeting, stated that he enjoyed for La Conner and working with the Commission, and thanked them for all of their hard work and effort.

Debby Alrich spoke and noted that a lot of community members commented and contributed to this Comprehensive Plan, and she would like to give them a shout out.

With no further business Commissioner Hedlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Holt. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chair

Date

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Planning Staff
SUBJECT: ADA Community Mingle
DATE: June 27, 2025

La Conner has been developing an ADA inventory, but I would like to gain a greater understanding of how the La Conner community views physical barriers. As we work towards full accessibility and compliance with the most recent ADA standards, my goal is to work with Public Works to prioritize those sections of town that cause the most pain points among community members.

To that end, I would like to hold at least one Community Mingle focused on ADA accessibility and standards.

Here are a few different dates that I am proposing, and I would like to get your feedback on which one you think would work best:

August 14th: Thursday, in between two Planning Commission Meetings

August 16th: This is a Saturday! But we have never had a Saturday Community Mingle, and it might be fun to explore. Maple Hall has an event, but we could likely find an alternate location by partnering with the Library, the Port, or the School District.

August 19th: In conjunction with the Planning Commission Meeting

I am also happy to explore alternative dates. What do you think?

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Planning Staff
SUBJECT: 2025 Next Steps
DATE: June 27, 2025

It's difficult to believe that we are already in July! Looking forward to the second half of the year, I would like to take a beat and think about the next steps. As part of that, I would love to know if there are any goals that you have as Commissioners, or if there are any sections of code that are due for a review.

For myself, here are some of my goals:

- Identify major community concerns regarding ADA and work with Public Works to establish timeline to fix
- Review permit fees
- Engage community in discussion regarding permitting required for changes within the Historic Preservation District
 - Identify if change is desired by the community
 - Create next steps if change is desired
- Sign code review
- Development Code review

Please let me know your thoughts!