



WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham WA 98226

AGENDA January 26, 2023

The Whatcom County Planning Commission will hold a **hybrid** meeting at 6:30 p.m., with the option to attend remotely or in person at 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham.

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Flag Salute
- Department Update
- Open Session for Public Comment
- Commissioner Comments
- Approval of Minutes of: December 8, 2022
- GMA overview & Comprehensive Plan update process
(Lexine Long, Senior Planner, Growth Management Services, WA Dept of Commerce)
- Unfinished Business
- Adjournment

NOTE: For information on how to watch and participate in the meeting in real time, please visit the following web page: [Participate in Virtual Planning Commission Meeting](#)

Individuals who require special assistance to participate in the meetings are asked to contact "PDS_Planning_Commission@co.whatcom.wa.us" at least 96 hours in advance.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

- Annual Business Meeting
- Wind Energy Systems
- Lake Whatcom Watershed Seasonal Closure Exemption

Pending Items Commissioners would like to address

Code related implications of climate modeling

There are nine members on the Whatcom County Planning Commission. If you will be giving written information to the Commissioners, please give a copy to the Coordinator for our office files.

*For more information please contact Tammy Axlund at (360)778-5935 or
PDS_Planning_Commission@co.whatcom.wa.us
5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham WA 98226*



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
December 8, 2022

Public Hearing and Work Session

1

1 **Call to Order**

2 The meeting was called to order by Whatcom County Planning Commission Chair,
3 Kelvin Barton at 6:31 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

5 **Present:** Robert Bartel, Kelvin Barton, Jim Hansen, Julie Jefferson, Kimberley Lund,
6 Dominic Mocerri, Scott Van Dalen

7 Absent: Atul Deshmane, Stephen Jackson

8 **Staff Present:** Cliff Strong, Steve Roberge, Amy Keenan, and Tammy Axlund

9 **Department Update**

10 Steve Roberge, Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), stated
11 that the County Council adopted the Planning Commission recommendation for
12 Wireless Code Amendments. Council is still considering the Buildable Lands Report. He
13 announced that unless the topic from tonight's meeting carries over, we may cancel
14 the January meeting due to PDS being short staffed during the holidays.

15 **Open Session Public Comment**

16 There was no public comment.

17 **Commissioner Comments**

18 Commissioner Hansen inquired about the Planning Commission meeting schedule for
19 2023. The Secretary responded that meetings will continue to be held on the second
20 and 4th Thursday of each month, except August, November, and December.

21 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

22 **Timestamp: 4:49**

23 **Commissioner Bartel moved** to approve the meeting minutes from October 27,
24 2022.

25 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

26 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Jefferson, Lund, Mocerri; Abstain-**
27 **Van Dalen; (Ayes-6; Nays-0; Abstain-1). The motion carried.** (Near the end of
28 the meeting, Jefferson asked to change her vote to "Abstain" because she did not
29 attend the October 27th meeting. **Revised vote tally: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen,**
30 **Lund, Mocerri; Abstain-Jefferson, Van Dalen; (Ayes-5; Nays-0; Abstain-2).**

31 **Miscellaneous Code Amendments 2022**

32 **Timestamp: 6:32**

33 Cliff Strong, PDS Senior Planner, provided an overview for each proposed Code
34 amendment. Mr. Strong and Amy Keenan, PDS Senior Planner, responded to
35 Commissioners' questions and concerns.



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
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Public Hearing and Work Session

2

1 **a) Public Hearing and Regarding Miscellaneous Code Amendments 2022**

2 **Timestamp: 59:10**

3 There was no public comment.

4 **b) Miscellaneous Code Amendments 2022 Work Session**

5 **Timestamp: 1:00:17**

6 The following corrections were made to the proposed amendments:

- 7 • In the table for 20.22.254, the last cell of the second row, will be 100' mean
8 depth instead of 0.
- 9 • In Chapter 22.05.134, item (2) will be removed because we define "Director" in
10 20.22.
- 11 • In section 280.910(3)(d): the change will also apply to the rural residential
12 island district. This was not included in the packet, but came to staff's attention
13 after the meeting packet was sent out. It would read: "In the rural residential
14 island district, the minimum lot size for attached accessory dwelling units is 4.5
15 acres and for detached accessory dwelling units 10 acres." This will be reflected
16 in the accompanying chart as well.
- 17 • Commissioners expressed concerns with amendments 2 and 8 and requested
18 these items be pulled from the proposal, so staff can work to resolve the issues
19 and bring them back to the Commission at a later date.

20 Commissioner Jefferson asked Commissioner Lund to send the housing report to
21 Tammy. When Tammy receives it, she will distribute it to Commissioners.

22 **Timestamp: 1:12:20**

23 **Commissioner Bartel moved** to accept miscellaneous code amendments as
24 amended, with the exception of numbers 2 and 8 which will not be sent to Council at
25 this time, and to accept the finding of facts.

26 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

27 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Jefferson, Lund, Mocerri, Van**
28 **Dalen; (Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

29 **Adjournment**

30 The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

31 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

32 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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34 _____
Kelvin Barton, Chair

Tammy Axlund, Secretary