



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
March 24, 2022**

Public Hearing and Work Session

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1 **Call to Order**

2 The virtual meeting was called to order by Whatcom County Planning Commission  
3 Chair, Kelvin Barton at 6:32 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

5 **Present:** Kelvin Barton, Jim Hansen, Stephen Jackson, Julie Jefferson, Kimberley  
6 Lund, Dominic Mocerri

7 **Absent:** Robert Bartel, Atul Deshmane, Scott Van Dalen

8 **Staff Present:** Matt Aamot, Josh Fleischmann, Michael McFarlane (Parks), Steve  
9 Roberge, and Tammy Axlund

10 **Department Update**

11 Steve Roberge, Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS),  
12 announced that the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will likely be cancelled due to logistical issues  
13 with the next couple of agenda items. He reminded everyone to sign up for the Short  
14 Course on Local Planning which will be held virtually on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

15 **Open Session Public Comment**

16 There was no public comment.

17 **Commissioner Comments**

18 There were no Commissioner comments.

19 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

20 **Timestamp: 04:38**

21 **Commissioner Jackson moved** to approve the meeting minutes from March 10,  
22 2022.

23 **Commissioner Hansen seconded.**

24 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Hansen, Jackson, Jefferson, Mocerri Barton; Abstain-Lund;**  
25 **(Ayes-5; Nays-0; Abstain-1). The motion carried.**

26 **Proposed Amendments - Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (2021-2026)**

27 **Timestamp: 05:38**

28 Matt Aamot, PDS Senior Planner introduced the topic and pulled up maps and photos  
29 of the flood damage to the park facilities. Michael McFarlane, Parks Director, described  
30 the scope and funding for each project. Mr. Aamot and Mr. McFarlane responded to  
31 Commissioner's questions.

32 **a) Public Hearing Regarding Six-Year Capital Improvement Program Amendments**

33 **Timestamp: 20:24**

34 Wendy Harris provided public comment.

35 **b) Six-Year Capital Improvement Program Work Session**

36 **Timestamp: 28:37**

37 Mr. Aamot and Mr. McFarlane responded to additional questions by Commissioners.



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1 **Commissioner Lund moved** to accept the amendments to the Capital Improvement  
2 Plan as proposed by staff and accept the findings of fact.

3 **Commissioner Jackson seconded.**

4 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Jefferson, Lund, Mocerri, Hansen, Barton, Jackson; (Ayes-**  
5 **6; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

6 **Proposed Zoning Code Amendments – Forest Practices Transfer of Jurisdiction**

7 **Timestamp: 33:37**

8 Josh Fleischmann, PDS Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the topic,  
9 which included recommended amendments from the Forestry Advisory Committee. He  
10 and Mr. Roberge then responded to clarifying questions by the Commissioners

11 **a) Public Hearing Regarding Forest Practices Transfer of Jurisdiction Zoning**  
12 **Amendments**

13 **Timestamp: 49:15**

14 Wendy Harris provided public comment.

15 **b) Forest Practices Transfer of Jurisdiction Work Session**

16 **Timestamp: 56:10**

17 Staff responded to additional questions by Commissioner's, and agreed to follow up on  
18 the County's current practices for erosion control and sediment inspections to ensure  
19 consistency with the Code. Mr. Fleischmann then provided some draft motions for  
20 consideration by Commissioners.

21 **Timestamp 1:13:03**

22 **Commissioner Mocerri moved** to approve WCC 20.76.100(3) as recommended by  
23 the Forestry Advisory Committee, as follows:

24 *The Department shall not issue a forest practices permit ~~unless the applicant~~*  
25 *~~provides verification from DNR that the~~ if the subject site is ~~not and~~ has ~~not~~ been*  
26 *subject to a notice of conversion to nonforestry use under RCW 76.09.060 during*  
27 *the six-year period prior to the submission of the permit application.*

28 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

29 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Jackson, Jefferson, Lund, Mocerri, Hansen, Barton; (Ayes-**  
30 **6; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

31 **Timestamp: 1:21:38**

32 **Commissioner Hansen moved** to adopt the proposed wording for the code changes  
33 and accept the findings of fact as amended.

34 Commissioners discussed how to move forward with the process of voting on the  
35 proposed amendments from the Forestry Advisory Committee.

36 **Commissioner Hansen withdrew the motion.**



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1 **Timestamp: 1:26:37**

2 Commissioners discussed amending the ordinance to insert the Forestry Advisory  
3 Committee's review as Finding of Fact #4.

4 **Commissioner Lund moved** to accept the amendment to insert: "The Whatcom  
5 County Forestry Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended for approval the  
6 draft code, as amended, on March 15, 2022."

7 **Commissioner Mocerri seconded.**

8 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Lund, Mocerri, Hansen, Jackson, Jefferson, Barton; (Ayes-  
9 6; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried**

10 **Timestamp: 1:28:14**

11 **Commissioner Lund moved** to recommend the proposed code as shown in Exhibit A,  
12 as amended, and to accept the amended Findings of Fact.

13 **Commissioner Mocerri seconded.**

14 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Mocerri, Hansen, Jackson, Jefferson, Lund, Barton; (Ayes-  
15 6; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**


16 **Adjournment**

17 The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

18 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

19 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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Kelvin Barton, Chair

  
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Tammy Axlund, Secretary