

# **Whatcom County Council Planning and Development Committee**

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 778-5010**



## **Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025**

**12:45 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN  
INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) OR CALL  
360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Jon Scanlon

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

## Call To Order

Committee Chair Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Jon Scanlon

Also Present: Kaylee Galloway and Mark Stremler

## Announcements

## Committee Discussion

1. [AB2025-245](#) Discussion of an ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Title 20 (Zoning) regarding home-based businesses

The following people spoke and answered questions:

- Mark Personius, Planning and Development Services Department Director
- Cliff Strong, Planning and Development Services Department
- Rajeev Mujumdar, Hearing Examiner
- Amy Keenan, Planning and Development Services Department

Personius stated that Strong has submitted his intended retirement and he thanked him for his service.

Strong and Mujumdar briefed the Councilmembers on the proposed code amendments.

Councilmembers and the speakers discussed that the proposed code is actually enabling language, why the proposed rules for agritourism activities in section 20.80.972 (1) (b) are being limited to eight weekends per year and that most activities might fall under type one which has no such limit, things that might be allowed with the new code that may have been more difficult before, that the intent of this code is to remove ambiguity which will help with and allow for consistent permitting, that this item is slated to have a public hearing on April 15th, and sending the proposed ordinance out to the Agricultural Advisory Committee, Food System Committee, and other farm groups to get their input.

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

### **Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council**

1. [AB2025-194](#) Resolution docketing Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation amendments

Lucas Clark, Planning and Development Services Department, briefed the Councilmembers and stated that after the March 11 meeting, they revised Exhibit A (the docket) to show that the fee was waived for the Bellingham School District application.

***Scanlon moved*** that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Councilmembers discussed the motion and that the docket may come back to Council if councilmembers propose land-use related policy and code amendments through their councilmember priorities.

Matt Aamot, Planning and Development Services Department, answered whether the planning they are doing through the Comprehensive Plan is assuming that the land that is already there is sufficient to accommodate the requests, and about the application maps (on file).

**Scanlon's motion that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 2 - Elenbaas, and Scanlon

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 1 - Donovan

### **Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

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Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

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Ben Elenbaas, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger