

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

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



## **Committee Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2022  
1:15 PM  
Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 1:45 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON OR  
SEE VIRTUAL MEETING JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT  
[www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Kaylee Galloway

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## Call To Order

Committee Chair Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

**Absent:** None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

## Announcements

## Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2022-145](#) Resolution docketing Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation amendments  
Matt Aamot, Planning and Development Services Department, presented and answered questions about the Bellingham Urban Growth Areas (UGA) Expansion project, how much forest land we have in Urban Growth Areas and where it would be, and whether the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has jurisdiction over forest lands that are currently in our UGA.

*Donovan* read the following item and *moved* that they recommend to the full Council that this item be added to Exhibit A (the docket):

Review and if necessary, revise county code and the Comprehensive Plan to protect and enhance public access to shorelines of Cherry Point. The review should include but not be limited to planning to facilitate the development of the Coast Millennium Trail, land swaps, development mitigation allowances, easements, and land purchases.

The motion was seconded by Galloway.

Councilmembers discussed the motion and whether there is public access now.

*Kershner suggested* a friendly amendment that he add "and expand" public access as follows:

Review and if necessary, revise county code and the Comprehensive Plan to protect, ~~and enhance,~~ **and expand** public access to shorelines of Cherry Point. The review should include but not be limited to planning to facilitate the development of the Coast Millennium Trail,

land swaps, development mitigation allowances, easements, and land purchases.

*Donovan accepted* the friendly amendment.

The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Elenbaas, and Galloway

**Nay:** 0

Aamot answered questions about the proposed docket.

*Donovan moved* that they recommend the substitute docket for approval as amended. The motion was seconded by Galloway.

Aamot answered whether there are any updates or outcomes on the projects on the docket that have been crossed out, and whether they wait until the items are totally complete before crossing them off the docket.

Frazezy asked whether the Council might be willing to bring forward an amendment to the docket regarding trail maintenance to have an exception to rebuild the trails in the watershed during the seasonal closure, and stated she will bring that up tonight.

Mark Personius, Planning and Development Services Department Director, answered whether they would be waiving the out of season trail building or extending the 500-foot limit or both, whether it would be considered an exemption to land clearing, and what part of the code it would change.

*Donovan moved* to recommend that they amend the docket to include Frazezy's amendment as follows:

Amend the Whatcom County Code to allow for an exemption to seasonal clearing activity closures in the Lake Whatcom watershed for trail maintenance and limited trail construction under certain circumstances.

The motion was seconded by Galloway.

The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Elenbaas, and Galloway

**Nay:** 0

**Donovan moved that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution be RECOMMENDED**

**FOR APPROVAL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S). The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Elenbaas, and Galloway

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Ben Elenbaas-via email 3/10/2022**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Ben Elenbaas, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE