

## Kate Blystone - Birch Bay Provisional Rezone

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**From:** <chairkathy@birchbayinfo.org>  
**To:** "Whatcom County Council" <council@co.whatcom.wa.us>, "Pete Kremen" <pkremen@co.whatcom.wa.us>, "David Stalheim" <DStalhei@co.whatcom.wa.us>  
**Date:** 10/22/2009 7:21 AM  
**Subject:** Birch Bay Provisional Rezone  
**CC:** "Kathy Berg" <kathyberg@comcast.net>, "Doralee Booth" <doralee@earthlink.net>, "William Grant" <wngrant@msn.com>, "Craig L. Telgenhoff" <craig@cltdesignbuild.com>

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October 22, 2009

To: Whatcom County Council,  
 The Whatcom County Executive and  
 Planning & Development Services

From: Kathy Berg, Chair  
 Birch Bay Steering Committee

**RE: Make the removal of the Provisional Rezone designation of the properties at the corner of Alderson Road and Blaine Road/SR548 in the Birch Bay UGA conditional on the County's adoption of the Birch Bay Design Guidelines for Commercial Development dated June 2007.**

PDS has referred several times during their work on the Birch Bay UGA in the 2031 UGA Planning process to the above mentioned document so I took another look at it myself. I saw the entire body of work accomplished by the community with the team of consultants, ANC (A Northwest Collaborative), again but for the first time as a whole and am blown away by what it's adoption could mean to Birch Bay as it grows into the future.

**From ANC's Final Report:** *"The goal of this project is to integrate the recent planning projects of the Birch Bay Community and Whatcom County into a coherent physical design framework capable of accepting the urban scale growth that is occurring. Through an interactive public process the Consultant Team (ANC) developed a Regional Diagram of relevant natural and urban elements. Then a Town Center Concept Plan created a conceptual proposal for future development. General Design Guidelines supporting the planning decisions were developed to provide a means to shape the scale, character and performance of commercial development within the Birch Bay Planning Area."*

I hope you will take a careful look at this entire document and then give very serious consideration to the ANC final recommendation to:

***"Add a "Birch Bay District" chapter to the official Whatcom County zoning ordinance (Title 20). This would be similar to the Point Roberts and Lummi Island district chapters. The chapter would include the ANC recommended refinements to the permitted and conditional uses for each***

*specific commercial district and incorporate the Birch Bay Design Guidelines for Commercial Development."*

I commend you to the Whatcom County website for all the documents created through and information about this amazing public process during the Fall of 2006 and Winter of 2007. The documents take time to download but your patience will be rewarded. [http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/planning/bb\\_design\\_guidelines.jsp](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/planning/bb_design_guidelines.jsp)

This document and the effort that went into it deserve to come off the self and become a living, functioning part of the Birch Bay community going forward into the future.