



Whatcom County Point Roberts Community Meeting Summary – July 21, 2005

On July 21, 2005, Whatcom County hosted a community meeting at the Point Roberts Community Center to respond to input received from community members on April 19th regarding County services, economic development projects, capital facilities and other key issues impacting the Point Roberts area, as well as hear additional comments and questions from the Point Roberts community. The following provides a brief summary of the discussion at the community meeting. The comments received have been grouped by topic. The order in which the comments have been noted does not reflect any prioritization by community members or staff.

Overview

The evening began with introductions and an overview of County responses to Point Roberts community comments and questions from the *April 19, 2005 meeting. The following Whatcom County representatives were present:

- County Executive Pete Kremen
- Council Member Barbara Brenner
- Public Works
 - Joe Rutan, Assistant Director/County Road Engineer
 - Mary Green, M & O Superintendent
 - Clayton Silves, M & O Assistant Superintendent
- Planning & Development Services
 - Bob Martin, Land Use Division Manager
 - Amy d. Pederson, Planner II
- Parks & Recreation
 - Mike McFarlane, Director
- Health
 - Jeff Hegedus, Environmental Health Supervisor

*Note: A copy of the April 19th meeting summary and corresponding County Department/Agency responses is posted on the Whatcom County website: <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/planning/PointRoberts.htm> and is available at the Point Roberts library, as well as the Whatcom County Planning Division office.

Question and Comment Session

Transportation Improvements

- **Question:** When is Tye Drive going to be improved?
 - **Answer:** Tye Drive improvement is identified as the #2 project on the Six-year Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) without a dedicated funding source. In order to

implement the Tyee Drive improvement project, a funding source(s) needs to be identified and obtained.

- **Comment:** It was suggested that the County help get Washington Community Economic Revitalization Team (WACERT) application funding for construction of the Monument Transportation Connector trail [2003 WACERT list]. Associated funding could help with improvements on Tyee Drive.
- **Comment:** There is a safety issue for bicycles and pedestrians along Tyee Drive from Benson Road to the US/Canada border.
 - **Response:** The County is aware of the issues along Tyee Drive and it is a high priority to address them. However, the County must address safety issues on a “worst case first” basis. Based on this criterion, there are currently other areas in the county that must be addressed before Tyee Drive.
- **Comment:** There should be a separated pedestrian path along Tyee Drive.
 - **Response:** The County Engineering Division considered the idea of a separated pedestrian path in the conceptual Tyee Drive improvement design; however, the concept dramatically increased the projected cost of the design. As proposed, Tyee Drive will stay about as wide as it is currently.
- **Question:** What is the “green slime” that has been spread on the roads?
 - **Answer:** The “green slime” is actually ligninite. It is a product that is spread on roads to reduce dust.
- **Comment:** There are still potholes that need to be fixed in gravel roads.
 - **Answer:** Potholes are filled at the same time the ligninite is spread. A grader goes in front of the ligninite spreader and fills in the potholes. We visited the roads in the Rex Road area this afternoon before coming to the meeting and no potholes were identified. (It is important to note that the County does not maintain private roads.)
- **Comment:** There is an issue with chip seal not being cleaned up sufficiently after being installed. It should be cleaned at least two or more times.
 - **Response:** Public Works does do more than two cleanings, but the issue is noted and they will work on improving clean up.
- **Comment:** Concern was expressed regarding general pedestrian safety on the roadside.
 - **Response:** As county roads do not generally include improvements such as sidewalks, pedestrian safety is a noted concern, particularly where there are narrow shoulders.
- **Question:** What is the situation with the “no parking” signs in Maple Beach?
 - **Answer:** The “no parking” signs have been privately installed. There is no force of law behind these signs as they have not been put in place by County ordinance. The sheriff is aware of this and will not enforce them.
- **Comment:** The road down to Maple Beach (Boundary Bay to Goodman Road) is narrow and a safety concern. It was requested that raised road markers be installed to delineate the center of the road.
 - **Response:** The County will install raised road markers (“turtles”) to mark the center of the road.

- **Question:** Does Point Roberts get the 1-cent gas tax back?
 - **Response:** The 1-cent gas tax comes back based on miles of road. Public Works tracks the use of the funds and where they are used. The funds are getting back to Point Roberts and are being used there.
- **Comment:** Roadside maintenance should occur more often. Grass and debris on the side of the road are a hazard.
 - **Response:** Public Works – Maintenance and Operations will be doing roadside maintenance in the coming weeks.
- **Comment:** There is a need for a guardrail on the north side of Johnson Road to Boundary Bay Road.
 - **Response:** That specific safety issue was also noted by Public Works – Engineering and Maintenance & Operation staff this afternoon.

Development Regulations and Enforcement

- **Comment:** There should be more tree retention encouraged on larger parcels where livestock such as horses, llamas, etc. are kept.
- **Comment:** A curtain drain is needed at the southern perimeter of the Golf Course because stormwater from the golf course is flooding properties and septic fields to the south.

Parks and Recreation

- **Comment:** Concern was expressed regarding the requirement for a certificate of insurance for a town picnic sponsored by the Friends of the Library. (A letter from the County was cited.)
 - **Response:** County insurance does not cover private events or special events sponsored by other organizations, so parties sponsoring events/gatherings in County parks need to provide a certificate of insurance. Events sponsored by private companies or groups are generally covered under their existing insurance policies. The "Friends of the Library" may be covered under the Library's insurance for such an event.
- **Comment:** It was suggested that the Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department sponsor a town picnic/re-enactment in future years to avoid the requirement for a certificate of insurance.
 - **Response:** The County will work with the Friends of the Library.
- **Comment:** It was suggested that a levy or a \$1.00 voluntary surcharge at the gas stations may be used toward acquisition of Lily Point property.

Other Issues

- **Comment:** It was requested that a copy of the earthquake and tsunami report for Whatcom County be made available in the Point Roberts Library.
 - **Response:** A copy will be provided to the Point Roberts Library.
 - Note:** A report specific to Whatcom County has not been identified. However, a Tsunami Inundation Mapping Efforts (TIME) report was conducted for part of Whatcom, Skagit and Island Counties in 2004. This report will be made available to the Point Roberts library. It is also available via the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website: <http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/tsunami/time/index.shtml>.

For questions and upcoming educational opportunities related to earthquake and tsunami preparedness locally, contact the Whatcom County Division of Emergency Management (360) 676-6681.

Next Steps

- The April 19th community meeting summary with corresponding County Department/Agency responses has been posted to the Whatcom County Planning Division webpage: <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/planning/PointRoberts.htm>
- Additional comments received at the July 21st community meeting have been distributed to the applicable County Departments and Divisions for review
- Provide Point Roberts community members with the results of the July 21st meeting and post to the County Planning Division webpage
- The next Point Roberts community meeting is tentatively scheduled for January, 2006 at the Point Roberts Community Center

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