



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
June 24, 2021**

Public Hearing and Work Session

1

1 **Call to Order**

2 The virtual meeting was called to order by Whatcom County Planning Commission  
3 Chair, Kelvin Barton at 6:31 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

5 **Present:** Robert Bartel, Kelvin Barton, Atul Deshmane, Jim Hansen, Kimberley Lund,  
6 Jon Maberry, Dominic Mocerri, Natalie McClendon

7 **Absent:** Stephen Jackson

8 **Staff Present:** Amy Keenan, Cliff Strong, Mark Personius, and Tammy Axlund

9 **Department Update**

10 Mark Personius, Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), announced that  
11 next Tuesday, the latest draft of the Cherry Point amendments for both the  
12 development regulations and the Comprehensive Plan will be brought forward to  
13 County Council Committee of the Whole. If Council approves this version of the  
14 amendments, we will set a date for Public Hearing in July and for final adoption.

15 The Planning Commission's recommended amendments to Mineral Resource Lands will  
16 be introduced in the Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday morning.

17 We have not yet been informed by the Prosecuting Attorney as to when we will be able  
18 to reinstate in-person Planning Commission meetings. County Council recently  
19 discussed this, but did not move forward on making any changes. It is unlikely we'll  
20 know more until July 1<sup>st</sup>, when the Governor is expected to issue a new order easing  
21 restrictions.

22 **Open Session Public Comment**

23 There was no public comment.

24 **Commissioner Comments**

25 Commissioner McClendon updated the group on the continuing progress of the Public  
26 Participation Ad Hoc Committee. They received approximately 150 staff responses to  
27 the survey they sent out. The next step is to reword the survey questions and send the  
28 questionnaire to board and commission members in July.

29 Commissioner Hansen advised that he had another commitment and would need to  
30 leave the meeting around 7:30 p.m.

31 **Affordable Housing Code Amendments**

32 **Timestamp: 10:35**

33 **Staff Report**

34 Cliff Strong, PDS Senior Planner, introduced the topic and advised that Amy Keenan,  
35 PDS Senior Planner had also joined the meeting and would be available for questions.  
36 He then provided background information as to why PDS is asking the Planning



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1 Commission to consider regulations for tiny homes, and whether to allow duplexes in  
2 urban growth areas when developed through a planned unit development. Mr. Strong  
3 described the four types of tiny homes and where they are currently allowed, then  
4 provided a proposal based on the types of tiny homes corresponding with the home  
5 types to which they are analogous. He described recommended changes to the  
6 Whatcom County Code.

7 **Work Session**

8 Commissioners discussed the proposed code amendments, and staff responded to their  
9 questions.

10 **Timestamp: 42:30**

11 **Public Hearing**

12 The following provided public comment

Todd McKellips

R. Perry Eskridge

Jesse Rasmussen

Gwyn Howat

Zack Giffin

13 **Timestamp 1:05:18**

14 **Deliberation and Decision**

15 Commissioners continued discussion.

16 **Timestamp: 1:27:21**

17 **Commissioner Lund moved** to accept the code amendments and finding of fact,  
18 with the understanding that staff may be working with some additional outside  
19 information before they bring this forth to the County Council

20 **Commissioner Mocerì seconded.**

21 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Lund, Maberry, McClendon,**  
22 **Mocerì; (Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

23 **Adjournment**

24 The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

25 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

26 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

27 

28 Kelvin Barton, Chair

  
28 Tammy Axlund, Secretary