



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
May 26, 2022**

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, Julie Jefferson,
6 Kimberley Lund, Dominic Mocerri, Scott Van Dalen

7 **Absent:** Stephen Jackson

8 **Staff Present:** Cliff Strong, Mike Kershner, Steve Roberge, and Tammy Axlund

9 **Department Update**

10 Steve Roberge, Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS),
11 announced that the June 9th Planning Commission meeting will be held in a hybrid
12 format. Planning Commissioners and the public will have the option to meet in person,
13 or remotely. At that meeting, we will have a short presentation by the Public Health
14 Advisory Board, as well as any unfinished business from tonight. We will then move on
15 to Wireless Code Amendments.

16 **Open Session Public Comment**

17 **Timestamp:** 03:50

18 No one offered public comment.

19 **Commissioner Comments**

20 Commissioner Lund disclosed that she had conversation with Michael Feerer from the
21 Whatcom Million Trees Project between our last meeting and this one.

22 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

23 **Timestamp:** 05:55

24 **Commissioner Bartel moved** to accept the meeting minutes from May 12, 2022.

25 **Commissioner Mocerri seconded.**

26 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Jefferson, Lund, Mocerri, Van**
27 **Dalen; (Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.** (Commissioner
28 Deshmane arrived after the vote was taken.)

29 **Proposed Amendments to the Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay District**
30 **(WCC 20.51), Water Resource Protection Overlay District (WCC 20.71), and**
31 **the code-referenced stormwater manual throughout WCC Title 20 (Zoning).**

32 **Timestamp:** 07:52

33 **a) Work Session**

34 Cliff Strong, PDS Senior Planner, acknowledged that a public hearing was held on May
35 12, 2022, regarding this agenda item. He noted that additional comments were
36 received, and he walked the group through the proposed amendments and comments.



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1 He and Mike Kershner, PDS Natural Resources Planner, responded to Commissioners'
2 questions.

3 Commissioners who provided comments were given the opportunity to discuss their
4 proposals. With regard to tree cover, Commissioners Lund and Hansen deferred to the
5 options provided by Whatcom Million Trees Project in conjunction with RE Sources.

6 Michael Feerer, Executive Director of Whatcom Million Trees Project and Alexander
7 Harris, Land and Water Policy Manager, RE Sources, explained their proposal for
8 20.51.430 (pg 11) and discussed their objective for the cap at 14,000 square feet. Mr.
9 Feerer noted that there is an error on their tables and anything under 1 acre would
10 retain current regulations.

11 Commissioners expressed preference for Option 2 (tree removal not associated with
12 development) of the Million Trees/RE Sources proposal, with the language for
13 exemptions cleaned up. At least one Commissioner stated a preference that smaller
14 lots should not be able to remove more tree canopy than larger lots.

15 For 20.71.356 Penalties and Enforcement for Unauthorized Removal of Significant
16 Trees, several Commissioners felt that when trees are removed they should be
17 replaced with medium to large trees, not saplings. There was some favor toward
18 stronger penalties, as well as encouragement to define planting more broadly as a tree
19 "establishment" process, and to develop a maintenance and monitoring component of
20 the penalty, which might be paid for by fine and/or fees.

21 **Adjournment**

22 The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

23 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

24 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

25 

26 Kelvin Barton, Chair



Tammy Axlund, Secretary