

**TOWN OF LA CONNER
PLANNING COMMISSION ZOOM MEETING
May 17, 2022**

The Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Bruce Bradburn, Marna Hanneman, John Leaver and Liz Theaker.

Commissioners absent: Carol Hedlin.

Staff: Michael Davolio.

Others present: 2.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Matthews, 310 N. 3rd Street asked why the planning commission only had an advisory role in the 306 Center Street Development permit process and when that was determined. Commissioner Hanneman said that by code, for a conditional use permit, the planning commission just makes a recommendation and then it goes to the hearing examiner for the final decision. Planner Davolio added that the Code says that either the planning commission or the planning director may make recommendation, and it has been his policy to do both to maximize the opportunity for public input. The Development Code has been developed over many years and it gives the planning commission authority over certain elements, and the hearing examiner authority over others. This Code was adopted by the Town Council. Commissioner Bradburn also pointed out that this is also in the Comprehensive Plan. Matthews thanked the commission for the position they took on this issue.

Amy McFeely, 818 S. 4th Street also expressed her appreciation for the planning commission taking the time to take another look at the project. She said she revisited a letter she wrote last year when the planning commission was doing the code changes that decreased lot size and setbacks, and allowed greater density on lots. It was explained that the code was being brought into line with other jurisdictions, but now there are condominiums and homes that could be found anywhere else. She feels that La Conner should be preserved and be something different and maybe the code needs to be revisited now that there is a visual of what that means for La Conner.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Leaver moved to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Bradburn. Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

- *Greg Ellis Historic Design Review, 333 Washington Avenue- Note that this is a continuation of Planning Commission review from April 19, 2022. The public hearing has been closed.*

Planner Davolio said that these are the remaining three applications for this property, Lots 6, 7 and 8. The public hearing was held previously on the group of applications. Davolio said that he added an additional condition of approval for Lots 6 and 7 that they be fully sprinkled, as those two lots are accessed by a shared driveway with more limited fire access. He said that after speaking to the fire chief, he wanted to suggest that the shared driveway be posted as a fire lane so that no parking is allowed.

After some discussion, Commissioner Bradburn moved to approve Lots 6, 7 and 8 with the conditions in the staff report and including the fire lane. Seconded by Commissioner Leaver. Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (following meeting) Joint meeting with Town Council, with a presentation by the Port of Skagit.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

None.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be on June 21st.

With no further business Commissioner Bradburn moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Leaver. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair

Date