

To: La Conner Town Mayor, Mrs. Marna Hanneman and all Town Council elected officials.

On 11th February, 2025, I expect to address the Town Council about my 18' artisan fence donation. The mayor, and Mr. John Leaver, a Town Planning Commissioner, and Mr. Brian Lease, Public Works Director, received, e-mailed, on Saturday 1st February, 2025, details of a change of both orientation and positioning demanded by Ms. Ajah Eills weeks after the Town had picked up every piece of the fence, including the TUDOR ROSE centrepiece, to install it "early this year." NO ONE informed me of these costly changes until I called Mr. Lease on Friday, 24th January, to ascertain an installation likely date. Please see my previous letter to the mayor - all Town Councillors have a copy.

I was informed that I would have to hire (a) a geo-engineer, (b) an arborist, and (c) a structural engineer. I attempted to comply - for one week. After receiving the proposal from Mr. John Gillaspay on Friday afternoon, 31st January, the lack of any mention that the Town of La Conner owns the land of the Butterfly Garden caused me to write the Mayor, and others.

I now suggest the Town provide all members of this community, residents, merchants, renters, and tourists alike a full accounting:

1. List every property, building, land, right of way owned by the Town.

2. For each of (1), list insurance coverage with specific details of exactly what is covered to what extent.
3. Specify how records are kept on each property, especially vulnerabilities as defined by the Emergency Management Commission. (See La Conner Weekly News, November 27th, 2024, p. 3).
4. Do not wait for a disaster to happen.

IF I had hired three professional companies at a cost of \$8,000, **and counting**,

IF I had signed the proposed contract with the geo-engineer,

IF the testing by the geo-engineer had disturbed the cliff where the 18' fence might be installed-

IF that disturbance, a few feet further north, directly behind the two story Civic Garden Club where the cliff has obviously, recently shoaled off a **chunk**, resulted in further shoaling, undermining the old foundation of that building-

WOULD I BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR RE-DOING THE
ENTIRE CLIFF THAT BELONGS TOTALLY TO THE TOWN - and
even any **DAMAGE** to the club building's foundation?

Therefore: The comprehensive plan cannot be drawn up until taxpayers know what the Town is liable for. Jerry George's point must be acted upon, "disasters and emergencies can strike anywhere, anytime."

A comprehensive plan must include:

1. Those liabilities;
2. **The water treatment plant** needs/costs to bring up to Mr. Lease's or a consultant's level of modern functioning;
3. **Affordable housing:** designated land for building and/or re-configuring existing structures.
4. Scientifically based expected **tide** and **water level rises** in the next 20-30 years or longer.
5. Flooding vulnerabilities both on the Swinomish Channel, and related to the Skagit River basin.

That's a short list. As our elected representatives, the monitoring of Town's paid staff and the major contract fulfilments, such as with the Sheriff's Office, fall within your purview.

We are all grateful for your dedicated service.

Respectfully,

J. Walker-Wharton

And, my 18' fence installation should proceed, as **always planned**. Does the Town need a geo-engineer's evaluation of that **entire** cliff? Then, **afterwards**, comes the fence. I don't own the land.