



TOWN OF LA CONNER PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Notice

October 7, 6PM

Upper Maple Center, La Conner WA, and Livestreamed
Information is below and on the Town Website

Skagit County Washington
Incorporated 1890
www.townoflaconner.org

Agenda

I. Convene

II. Public Comments (Topics not otherwise on the Agenda) – Time Limit 3 Minutes

III. Minutes: Approve Minutes from the September 16, 2025 meeting.

IV. Old Business

1. Status Report – Public Participation Program.
2. Discussion of color for LU25-41HDR, continued.

V. New Business

- a. General HPD code discussion.

VI. Closing Comments:

Live Streaming Info: <https://laconnerwa.portal.civicclerk.com/>

TOWN OF LA CONNER PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES September 16, 2025

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

Commissioners present: Tracy McCain, Maya Ojalehto, Timothy Corey, Bruce Bradburn, and Sommer Holt

Staff: Ajah Eills

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dorothy Downs asked about the new construction by the Quilt Museum. Planner Eills thought that this was in reference to 213 Calhoun Street, which is fully permitted.

Austin Dudley spoke about the high fees related to repainting in the Historic Preservation District (HPD). He was referred to Town Council.

Linda Talman expressed that they felt the HPD code should be updated and that there was something wrong with it.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Bradburn moved to approve the minutes and seconded by Commissioner Ojalehto. **Motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.**

WELCOME TO COMMISSIONER MCCAIN:

Commissioner McCain was welcomed to the Planning Commission.

PRESENTATION:

Town Administrator Scott Thomas gave a presentation about the Planning Commission's role, responsibilities, and operations. Administrator Thomas shared reference material with the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Planner Eills reported that handrails will be placed on the Gilkey Square steps, and the Town will be sending out letters to property owners this fall about foliage maintenance. Placement of a mirror on the O'Neil's driveway will not be possible due to the potential of blinding drivers on First Street. Discussion continued on actionable fixes. Planner Eills will follow up on boardwalk signs with pictures.

Town Council submitted a request for the Planning Commission to reconsider their decision in LU25-39HDR. Commissioner Bradburn moved to confirm the original recommendation with no changes. An extended discussion commenced. The applicant spoke about why she wanted vertical siding, and stated that there were already buildings in the HPD that have vertical siding. Commissioners discussed the presence of buildings with vertical siding and the HPD code overall. Commissioner McCain stated that the present Planning Commission

cannot be responsible for past code violations, and if the code is not acceptable, then it should be changed, but the Planning Commission must deal with the current code in front of them. Commissioner Holt spoke at length about definitions included in code, and code interpretation. Commissioner Holt stated that the word “avoid” in the text meant that vertical siding should not be used, and that the presence of buildings with vertical siding in the HPD does not mean that the code allows for it. The definition of the word “avoid” was discussed at length. Commissioner Ojalehto stated that the present Planning Commission cannot be responsible for decisions made by past Planning Commissions.

Commission Holt moved that the Planning Commission upon reconsideration of LU25-39HDR approve the application with the condition that all siding will fully comply with LCMC 15.50.090(2), with special attention paid to the avoidance of vertical and board-and-batten siding. Commissioner McCain seconded. Commissioners Holt, Ojalehto, and McCain voted in approval. Commissioners Corey and Bradburn opposed. The motion passed.

Commissioners discussed the dark crimson color requested in LU25-41HDR. Planner Eills confirmed that the submitted color was the color painted on the building currently. Discussion commenced. The Commission requested that the HEX code be obtained from the applicant.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioners discussed color in the HPD district. The code update process was discussed. The color and code change discussion will continue in future meetings.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/STAFF COMMENTS:

Public Comment was made about how the Planning Commission was doing a good job.

With no further business Commissioner Ojalehto moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Bradburn. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Planning Staff
SUBJECT: LU25-41HDR Color Follow-Up
DATE: October 7, 2025

During the last Commission meeting, Commissioners continued discussing LU25-41HDR, relating to repainting 313 Morris Street. As part of this, the Commission asked Planning to get the HEX Color Code.

Here is the color submitted:

Behr Dark Crimson: HEX Code 853C41, based on <https://encycolorpedia.com/853c41>



This hex code does not appear to be an exact match for any hex code for a Sherwin Williams or Benjamin Moore historical red paint

Here is a selection of historical reds found in Sherman Williams or Benjamin Moore historical paint collection.

