

Anacortes Planning Commission Minutes - June 9, 2026

Roll Call

Chairperson Frank Jeretzky called to order the Anacortes Planning Commission meeting of June 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Jill Underwood, William McCombs, Linda Martin, Tarn Ohana, Chad Sage and Mike Mills were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Minutes of 04/14/2026 & 05/12/2026 were submitted for approval

April 14th, 2026 & May 12th, 2026, minutes were submitted for approval.

April 14th Minutes:

Linda Marin advised that there are minor corrections to spelling and grammar. Linda Martin motioned to approve minutes with changes. William McCombs seconded the motion. All Ayes

May 12th Minutes:

Linda Martin advised there were minor corrections needed for spelling and grammar. Linda Martin motioned to approve minutes with changes. William McCombs seconded the motion. Frank Jeretzky and Mike Mills abstained from the vote; William McCombs, Chad Sage, Linda Martin, Jill Underwood and Tarn Ohana voted yes.

Public Comment

Chairperson Frank Jeretzky opened it up to the public to make comments at 6:04pm.

Mark Nihart, Anacortes resident, vice-president of Smart Growth of Anacortes board, advised that Anacortes does not have a Tree Preservation Plan, with no definitive document or solid plan that anyone can refer to. He recommends a team or a council to develop a plan for best practice for tree preservation with steps or procedures to follow for years to come.

Closed the public comment at 6:07pm.

Public Hearings

Draft Public Participation Plan for the Critical Areas Regulations Update

Planning Manager, Libby Grage, presented to the Planning Commission the Draft Public Participation Plan for the Critical Areas Regulations Update in a slide presentation. Libby went over the purpose of the agenda, such as the overview of critical areas, reviewing the updated requirements under the Growth Management Act (GMA) and the proposed Public Participation Plan, and received public testimony on the PPP. Before opening the public hearing to the audience, Linda Martin asked if there was difference between wetlands and critical aquifer recharge areas. Libby Grage addressed the question by advising that there are specific state definitions for each.

Chairperson, Frank Jeretzky, opened the public hearing for comments at 6:24pm.

Mark Nihart, Anacortes resident, vice-president of Smart Growth of Anacortes board, spoke about the comment and response piece. The public doesn't get the opportunity to challenge or to question staff findings and wants the ability to challenge the comments along with staff's recommendations.

Chairperson, Frank Jeretzky, closed the public hearing at 6:27pm and asked the planning commission if they had any comments.

Discussion Topics Included:

- Critical Area Report Timelines
- Availability of the Critical Area Report
- Clarification on staff recommendation
- Suggested wording on the Critical Area Public Participation Plan
- Social Media recommendation

Vice-Chair, Linda Martin moved, seconded by Tarn Ohana, to recommend the City Council adopt the Public Participation Plan for the Critical Areas Regulations Update, presented with three revisions:

Revision 1: In the sentence under the "Comments" header, revise it to "Staff will prepare a comment-response matrix identifying major issues raised, staff analysis, and staff recommendations."

Revision 2: Under the "Interested Parties and Tribal Engagement" header, we need to include in the "Members of the Public" section, "Groups and Individuals." to the list.

Revision 3: Add social media as another avenue for reaching the public.

Discussion on Motion:

- Concerns about adding the wording to the "Interested Parties and Tribal Engagement" section.

Vote was placed. All Ayes.

Other Business

No Other Business

Planning Department Update

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Director John Coleman provided an update on some of the motions that have been brought to City Council. The City Council has already approved the last suggestion made by the Planning Commission. He advised on a project the City had just completed with the letters of "Anacortes" near the San Juan Ferry entrance. John also provided a timeline for the upcoming meetings:

- July 14th: Will address the Mayor's Executive Order
- August 11th: Shoreline Master Program gap analysis
- September 15th: Special meeting that has been moved due to holiday interference
- September 29th: An additional meeting that has been added
- October 13th: Regularly scheduled meeting
- October 27th: An additional meeting that has been added
- November 10th: Going over the Shoreline Master Program

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.