Planning Commission Public Hearing Minutes for November 13, 2019

This is not a verbatim transcript of the meeting and is written in an attempt to capture the general spirit of the discussion based upon notes and video observation by the author. To view the video recording of this meeting, click here, or go to https://www.anacorteswa.gov/700/Watch-Meetings.

Chair McNett called the Public Hearing of November 13, 2019, to order at approximately 5 p.m.

Roll Call
Members Present: Commissioners McNett, Graf, MacKenzie, and Doll
Commissioner Cleland-McGrath arrived at 6pm
Absent: Commissioner Mount & Moffitt

Minutes
Minutes from October 23, 2019, stand as presented.

Correspondence None

New Business None

Old Business

Continued discussion of the Draft Critical Area Ordinance Update.
Ms. Libby Grage, Planning Manager, provided the Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) is required to be updated every 8 years, and the update is past due. Tess Cooper, Associate Planner provided an outline on the update process and timeline proposal, listing the goals for this meeting which were to provide a progress report, review the wetland section, and review the Fish & Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCA) section. Commissioner McNett requested visual diagrams to help with wetland scoring and buffer limits. Ms. Cooper discussed the conservation easement for the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) and all the protections currently in place for the ACFL and explained the information in the Commissioners' information packet for this meeting. Chair McNett opened the floor for public participation:

Public Comments:

Tom Glade, 210 Mansfield Ct, Anacortes: Representing Evergreen Islands, discussed reasonable use exceptions in the CAO process.

Brian Wetcher, 814 26th St, Anacortes: Questioned the reason for opening the floor to public comments since they will not be logged as record, and mentioned the CAO should not be based on development; it should be a conservation ordinance.

Bob Barry, 1914 22nd St, Anacortes: Disappointed how the ACFL is being managed under the CAO, and would like 2 more months for the CAO update process.

Catherine Houck, 2318 20th St, Anacortes: Recommend putting the Cannery/Ship Harbor areas back in the CAO document and tailor the CAO to the values of its citizens.

Neal O'Hara, 4407 Anaco Beach Pl, Anacortes: As a member of the Audubon Society, concerned about the Ship Harbor wetland buffer and its critical habitat.

Andy Stewart, 3508 W. 8th St, Anacortes: As a long term member of the Friends of the Forest (FOF), said the CAO should be more part of the ACFL & wildlife corridors.

Ms. Cooper provided the exemption section in CAO is still the same - just renamed and relocated in the Draft CAO. Ms. Cooper also provided information on major changes in CAO including a new section 19.70.350(c), March Point Heronry. Fiona McNair, Consultant with GeoEngineers, explained wetland buffer type & functions, rating system, buffer widths, and primary factors used to evaluate buffer width, etc. Discussion ensued among Commissioners and ultimately agreed more time and public participation was necessary to update the CAO and provided the following timeline to update the CAO:

November 20th at 5pm
November 27th CANCELED
December 4th at 5pm

With no further discussion, Chair McNett concluded the meeting at approximately 8:03 p.m.