

September 6, 2016
STEILACOOM PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Cable called the special meeting of the Steilacoom Planning Commission to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Town Hall.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Cable, Vice Chair Braddock, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Hilleary, Mr. Miner and Mr. Mroczek were present. **Mr. Jacobs** were excused. **Council members Marion Smith, Fred Crumley, Pete Franklin and Steve Stovall**, as well as **Mayor Lucas** were also present. Staff members present were Administrator Loveless, Attorney Hoffman, Director Burlingame, and Planner Fortner.

Joint Meeting

Chair Cable asked the members of the Commission to introduce themselves to the Council. Each member did so. The joint meeting to discuss the Commission's work plan began with a brief staff report.

Mr. Fortner outlined four known issues that will come before the Commission in the next few months. The Town will need to update the Frequently Flooded Areas portion of the Critical Areas Ordinance; update the sign ordinance to comply with a Supreme Court ruling; hold an informational workshop on a potential plat on Birch Street; and hold hearings on an anticipated application to rezone the School District's upper field on Chambers Street.

Chair Cable then began discussions on three issues the Commission had brought to the Council.

Carbon neutrality was discussed. **Ms Braddock** said the Planning Commission was seeking permission to study this issue. The Town government may be close to carbon neutrality as it is. The Town could do something as simple as plant trees. **Mr. Stovall** indicated he had read an article forwarded by **Ms Braddock** that seemed to rely on volunteer efforts rather than government action.

Mr. Loveless gave a partial list of projects the Town had undertaken recently to cut energy consumption.

September 6, 2016
STEILACOOM PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

Mr. Smith asked for a definition of carbon neutral. **Ms Braddock** said it involves looking at both how much carbon the Town uses and how much is offset by trees. The Town would need an assessment.

Mr. Crumley questioned whether the Commission had time to take on this project. **Mr. Boyle** and **Mr. Miner** said these tasks are mostly matters for staff. **Mr. Franklin** said the Town has taken actions based on common sense. **Mayor Lucas** indicated that the Town has consulted with WSU regarding solar and wind power. He speculated that the Pierce Conservation District might be able to be a source of ideas.

Salmon-safe certification was discussed next. **Ms Braddock** explained that road runoff is lethal to coho salmon. Salmon-safe would work with the Town to establish water quality standards. **Mr. Smith** said the Town has state water quality standards to meet. **Ms Braddock** said that the Town can do better.

Mayor Lucas said that Chambers Creek has a 303(d) listing, and the pollution is upstream. **Ms Braddock** said the measures that Salmon-safe might want could be simple.

Mayor Lucas said that his initial reaction was not to give money to a company in Seattle, he would rather work with the Pierce County Conservation District.

Mr. Stovall asked what benefit the Town would have from being certified. **Ms Braddock** said that the Town could use the logo, and that it would create mindfulness of the issue. She said the Town can do better than the NPDES water quality standards.

The Tacoma Environmental Action Plan was discussed next. Chair Cable invited Planning Commission members to discuss which portions might be applicable to Steilacoom. **Mr. Miner** said the projects were staff issues. **Mr. Mroczek** said it might be useful to have a similar framework document to collect in one place the Town's efforts.

September 6, 2016
STEILACOOM PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

Mayor Lucas asked if there was anything else the Planning Commission would like to bring up. **Mr. Miner** said the Town ought to look at the way infill development was affecting traffic patterns. **Ms Braddock** said she would like a map of walking paths and trails.

The Council then took the following action on the staff suggested items for the Commission's future agenda:

1. Critical Areas Ordinance – proceed
2. Sign code – wait until issue is clarified
3. Plat – proceed when application filed
4. Rezone – proceed when application filed

The Council took the following action on the Commission suggested items for the Commission's future agenda:

1. Carbon neutral policy – take no action
2. Salmon-safe certification – take no action
3. Environmental Action Plan – take no action at this time

Mayor Lucas requested the Planning Commission to come up with a list of possible actions the Town should undertake. He said the staff will come up with its own list and will have further discussions with the Commission.

Adjournment

The Planning Commission adjourned at 7:50 PM. The Town Council proceeded with its meeting.



FOR Chair Susan Cable



Planner Doug Fortner