

**Public Dock Committee Meeting**  
**Sunday April 3, 2022 6:30 to 8:00 PM via Zoom**

**PRESENT**

Mary Ross, Chris Immer, Dave Perry, Nick Kluge, Alan Krum, Lane Coury. (Notes by Lane Coury.)

**LINKS TO RESOURCES**

- **Town Meeting (Feb 6, 2022)** – The 90 minute meeting was recorded and available for replay (check [OurLummiIsland.org](http://OurLummiIsland.org) > PDAC webpage > Public / Town Hall Meetings list).
- [Look at this page](#) to find links to recordings of the Zoom PDAC committee meetings.
- [The Public Dock Committee web page](#) with links to documents and related references. (To find this page, go to [OurLummiIsland.org](http://OurLummiIsland.org) > Community > Committees & Research > Public Dock Committee)
- **Shoreline Master Program Handbook** - [has good definitions and very clear guidelines in Chapter 12](#) - “Piers, Docks, and Overwater Structures”

**ACTIONS SUGGESTED (most recent first)**

- **April** – [2009 Subarea Plan for Lummi Island](#). Prepared by the Lummi Island Planning Committee (2001-2003) after a series of public meetings and surveys. **See notes on page 3.**
- **March and April** – one next great challenge will be building public consensus about the dock and its design. We should all start researching guides and project examples. Here are two docs: (1) [Recreation and Conservation Office Planning Manual > Element 3: Public Involvement \(pages 10-11\)](#) (2) [Birch Bay Community Park – Public Involvement Statement \(pages 1-2 and 8-11\)](#).

**AGENDA ITEMS AND RELATED DISCUSSION**

**1. Discussed next steps to engage county officials.**

Have not received reply yet from email to County Executive Satpal Singh Sidhu.

**DECISION:** Terry Terry will talk with Exec Sidhu. She will also coordinate a meeting with Mike M and Jon Hutchings. Committee will follow up with Jon H to tell him what we have been working on.

**4/4/22 email from Mike McFarlane, Director of Parks & Recreation, to Terry Terry:**

*The dock committee should discuss the project with the County Executive.*

*This is too large of a project for the Parks Department to undertake alone and needs further vetting before listing.*

*The concept could be listed in future planning documents if there is support.*

*Right now we're focused on cost sharing for public access improvements at the Aiston preserve.*

**2. Discussed committee direction and next actions to keep moving on the project.**

Talked about need to engage more community members and broaden outreach. All applications for grant funding require a clearly-stated plan to get community input and opportunity for open discussion of alternatives. Initial ideas include:

- Host information sessions at Saturday Market, library, etc.
- Hold community workshops to discuss and brainstorm
- Contact the Beach School to discuss coordination – engage students in discussion about their ideas and input

Discussed ideas to get input from island business people, vendors, artists, musicians, etc.

Think about how we collect input from business people. Would be good to hold in-person workshops to get ideas and generate more specific pros and cons from their perspectives.

**Update from 4/3/2022** – think about how to reach out to an islander group who could attend a Zoom meeting. Or would prefer a one-on-one. Discuss next week on 4/11/22.

**NOTE:** Check [2009 Subarea Plan](#) Lummi Island Economic Activity by Location (page 30).

Engage LIFD to coordinate with emergency response and evacuation planning.

Remind people that yes, this is planning for a rare event. But that is also why you buy insurance – you hope you won't use it, but if you need it, you have it.

### 3. *Discussed ideas for collecting comments into FAQs and sharing survey results.*

**DECISION:** End first initial survey. Lane will pick up forms from The Islander.

**Post a note on website to thank respondents and show graphic of results.** Especially thank those who took the time to share written comments. Lane to provide final graph.

**Pick a date to publish comments.** Wait until we can share a reasonable number of answers.

**Idea** – where relevant, give quote directly from the survey. We can include photos in the FAQs.

**DECISION:** discuss next Town Hall. Brainstorm an agenda re: reporting back on progress.

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Acknowledge all of the responses and the mixed opinions. Share results and specific comments. Yes, we know this is a concern – we realize that. How can we tackle it?

Validate people who are worried about the plan and see how we can find common ground. We don't have the answers and we can't just make this happen.

Continuing the conversation is just so important. Think about how we engage community members with differing priorities and broaden our understanding of options and alternatives.

**ACTION (Lane):** Get comments into some form which groups common concerns. Use Ed Scott input and the Wochos letter.

**ACTION (all):** everyone look at that and be ready to discuss.

#### **Update from Mary**

Rich Hudson, Ferry Senior Master, requested a copy of the Ferry Impact Survey questions and responses (no names or personal identification to be included). This will be used in support of the ferry RAISE grant application. Mary is working on this.

#### **LIFAC Meeting Update**

One of us use 3 mins at the public forum part of the meeting. Provide a quick write up dock survey results, ferry impact survey results for this quarter, and PDAC plans for next quarter.

**ACTION (Lane):** send email to LIFAC committee with summary of key points. [Done 4/4/22]

#### 4. Discussion about comprehensive plan

From the subarea plan (page 72):

**Growth Management Indicators Program**—*This strategy establishes benchmarks and monitors key public facility service levels, as well as environmental, population growth and other community quality-of-life indicators for the next 20 year planning period.*

*Thresholds for key indicators could be established (say for example the number or rate of contaminated wells, building permits issued, new lots created, etc.) so that when certain thresholds are reached the Subarea Plan could trigger certain actions such as:*

- *temporary moratoria*
- *review and amendments to the Subarea Plan*
- *county regulations to correct deficiencies or address specific issues of concern, such as water quality and water supply planning.*

Who updates the “report card” for these Growth Management Indicators and when is it done?

Dave points out that we should check in with Whatcom County. This subarea plan is due to be renewed in 2023, but 20 years is a long time without any evaluation. It would be better to have more frequent checkpoints as early red flags.

LANE – Look at the library and find 1979 Subarea Plan. I could ask Paul Davis about finding it.

#### 5. Talked about best ways to build and communicate a cohesive vision

How do we focus on the priorities of the group that we are targeting for a discussion?

Explain how Lummi Island has had a successful project – LIHT and Aiston Preserve. Mary points out that this is much broader project with many other partners related to preservation and reclamation.

County has put a good amount of money into Aiston in return for public beach access.

##### **Ideas for partnerships to pursue in short term**

Meeting with Public Works is certainly important – identify synergy and advantages to the department re: quicker deployment of passenger ferry, for example.

##### **Ideas for meeting with County Executive**

Start thinking about the cost elements and how a big investment could contribute

#### 6. County discussions about putting in a boat launch

Referenced in Open Space plan. Chris thinks this was discussed for the space between the new ferry terminal and the old ferry dock. He will check to see what was discussed.

Village Point Marina not ideal – if wind is from the south, you get blown around. Chris says he rescues at least one boat a year that gets away from the launch.

Village Point Marina did have a hoist system to raise boats for launch. Not all marina owners have been open to having public access at the launch/dock.

## 7. **Confirmed schedule for presentations, meetings, and public interactions.**

*Schedule from March 2022 forward.*

*Refer to earlier meeting notes for committee actions completed through February 2022.*

a) Initial Public Dock Survey for islanders – March (in progress)

**Responses = 200**

**Yes = 187      No or Maybe = 13**

**Percent In Favor = 96%**

**% Of Population Responded = 20%**

b) Parks & Recreation presentation – 3/17/2022 (complete)

c) Send email to County Executive Satpal and schedule a meeting – 3/23/22 (complete)

d) Coordinate a meeting with committee, LIFD, DPW, and Parks & Rec.

e) Coordinate an island tour for Parks & Rec commissioners and staff.

f) Public Dock Survey from a business/artist/vendor point of view – discuss at 4/3/22 meeting.

g) Consider - Could we reel in Washington State Senator Cantwell? She co-sponsored the Sports Fish Fund renewal.

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**Summary of Subarea Plan** – adopted in 2009 after much planning/public discussion in 2001-2003

This is an **extremely** interesting document that I would advise everyone to read carefully. Tons of data for Lummi Island growth and development dating back to 1966.

**If we feel that PDAC should have a grasp on current statistics, here are a few thoughts.**

Check out **Subarea Planning Process** (page 11) – great graphic with key steps

Also – Table 1 for **Housing Stock Age Distribution** (page 14).

*SUGGESTION – it would be good to track down these values for 2000-2010 and 2010-2020. The table lists the **Whatcom County Assessor** as the source, so need to figure out how to find the data.*

### **Interesting points**

The number of Lummi Island owner-occupied households who spent more than 30% of their monthly income on housing costs **increased from 5% in 1990 to 34% in 2000**. *What is it for 2010 and 2020?*

The numbers for renter-occupied households are even higher. The rental housing market has tightened considerably in the last decade.

Of all **year-round occupied units**, 79% are owner-occupied and 21% are renter-occupied today compared with 72% owner-occupied and 28% renter-occupied in 1990.

In 1990 = 16% of the population earned incomes below the poverty level

In 2000 = 12% of the population earned incomes below the poverty level

*SUGGESTION – it would be good to track down these values for 2010 and 2020 census counts.*