

Public Dock Committee Meeting
Sunday May 22, 2022 6:30 to 7:30 PM via Zoom
(The Zoom meeting was not recorded)

PRESENT

Chris Immer, Mary Ross, 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 > 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 > 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”

COMMITTEE ACTIONS SUGGESTED (most recent first)

- **May** – Whatcom County [Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Open Space Plan for 2016](#). Read through this plan to gain familiarity. Especially look at section **Assistance with Local and Community Park Initiatives** (pg. 58-59). This is where the acquisition of the stone quarry for the Aiston Preserve was listed and where we hope the dock project will be identified in the 2024 plan.
- **May** – [Appendix - Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Open Space Plan for 2016](#). Start on page 169 to see previous input and questions raised during 2013 meetings with Lummi Islanders. Also see [this annotated extract from the plan](#) that highlights any reference to Lummi Island or Lummi Bay. This helps provide a context for community interest over the last 9 to 10 years.
- **April** – [LIFAC Survey from 2018](#) (starting on page 173). Interesting review of data collected during a community study to make a case for the replacement ferry.
- **April** – [2009 Subarea Plan for Lummi Island](#). Prepared by the Lummi Island Planning Committee (2001-2003) after a series of public meetings and surveys.
- **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. Updates on next steps to engage county officials and others.

FROM PARKS & REC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES ON APRIL 21, 2022

At the April meeting, Parks & Recreation Commissioners commented on the presentation by the PDAC at the March Meeting

A. Joe Hashmall thinks the Lummi Island Public Dock is very important and needs to be done, but is unsure if the Parks Department should be the primary movers for it.

B. Terry Terry advised the Lummi Island Public Dock Advisory Committee to contact Jon Hutchings, the Director of Public Works, who was very positive about the dock, but realistic about it taking time. The committee also sent their presentation to County Executive Satpal Sidhu. More community members are becoming involved in the endeavor and research is ongoing for possible funding streams.

C. Brian Estes would not support the Parks Department advocating for the dock. Brian expressed concern with groups giving 30-45-minute presentations to the commission about things that are not actionable by the commission.

Mike McFarland, Executive Director of Whatcom County Parks & Recreation, gave his staff report. Regarding the PDAC presentation, he said:

Mike spoke with Jon Hutchings, the Director of Public Works, who advised the new ferry landing on Lummi Island will have an emergency dock for fire, rescue, and ambulance transfers. Mike advised the Lummi Island Public Dock is a project beyond the scope of the parks department, but that it can be put into the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan as a community desire.

UPDATES FROM EMAIL EXCHANGES REGARDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

On May 20, Terry Terry forwarded an email from Mike McFarlane about next steps. Mike said:

As the new [Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Open Space] plan is being put together, the Parks & Recreation Commission and staff will be updating the "Demand and Needs Analysis" chapter that lists projects and acquisitions.

There is a section called **Assistance with Local and Community Park Initiatives** (pg. 58-59) in the 2016 plan ... that lists projects that are of interest to the various communities and districts within the County. This is where the acquisition of the stone quarry for the Aiston Preserve was listed and where the dock project should be identified in the 2024 plan.

On May 23, Lane sent an email to Mike McFarlane to see what PDAC should do to be sure we are included in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. Mike said:

I don't believe I need anything else at this time and have made note to where to include the plan. It's likely the plan will be written sometime next year with an approval sometime late November or December. There will be a public review period so you may want to check our website to ensure its listed.

On May 24, Terry Terry sent an email to PDAC members suggesting that in the fall, we introduce ourselves and the proposed project to the new Parks & Rec Director who will be hired in the next few weeks.

Next committee action required: Put discussion on the agenda for the August PDAC meeting.

2. Discussed committee direction and next actions.

Suggested scheduling a monthly meeting, second Sunday of the month, starting June 12. The committee can always call a meeting more frequently if needed.

For June meeting, we should discuss objectives for the rest of 2022.

One goal will be to engage more community members and broaden outreach through actions such as:

- Host information sessions at Saturday Market, library, etc.
- Hold community workshops to discuss and brainstorm
- Contact the Beach School to discuss ways to engage students in discussion about their ideas and input.
- Get input from island business people, vendors, artists, musicians, etc.

Another proposed goal is to build more formalized plans for how islanders can respond to unplanned ferry outages and other unexpected events requiring coordination. For example:

- Create a list of resources who could offer private transportation for urgent access to the mainland
- Build awareness of alternative transportation options such as Outer Island Excursions
- Coordinate with LIFD Emergency Preparedness team to share ideas

3. Summary of 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 –

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).
Waiting for response.

d) Watch for best time in autumn 2022 to coordinate a meeting with committee, LIFD, DPW, and Parks & Rec.

e) When appropriate, coordinate an island tour for Parks & Rec commissioners and staff.

f) Conduct a Public Dock Survey from a business/artist/vendor point of view.

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