

MEMORANDUM

Date: 1/13/05
To: Fidalgo Island CAC and TAC
From: Aubin Phillips
Re: Fidalgo Island Subarea Plan CAC Meeting 1/13/05

Attendance:

CAC: Bill Dinsmoor, Chuck Manning, Tom Stowe, Bill Turner, Bill Wooding, Mike Trafton, Tom Glade

TAC: Jim Mecca, Ross Barnes, Konrad Kurp, Ian Munce, Tony Kubena

Consultants: Roger Wagoner, Aubin Phillips

County: Jeroldine Hallberg

Other: Mary Goodman, Patrick O'Hara?, Carol Ehlers

Ed Goodman is unable to make the meeting tonight, so Bill Turner will be filling in as chairman. All of the handouts sent out in the pre-meeting packet were passed around – this includes the agenda for tonight, the notes from the last meeting and a draft outline for the subarea plan. Notes from the two TAC meetings were also passed around – this includes notes from Jim Mecca, Tom Stowe, and Ross Barnes.

Roger pointed out the transportation map that was brought in that shows the functional classifications of the roads on Fidalgo Island. Individual maps were not passed out since it is very difficult to differentiate between the colors. To view the map go to the Skagit County website and go to the Public Works homepage and click on the link for “2003 Skagit County Transportation Systems Plan”, here you will be able to view the plan online as well as the maps. The functional classification map is called “Class W”; you will need to zoom in really close on Fidalgo to see the color distinctions. The handout on transportation will explain the differences between these roads.

Public Comment

Carol Ehlers pointed out that we have not yet asked the public for geographical or geological information on the area as is stated in the resolution. Doing this would help us pinpoint the trouble spots in the area, for example drainage. If we don't ask for this information, it cannot be provided. There is a \$500,000 study done on Rosario Road that includes Campbell Lake and Lake Erie and some wetlands, this could be a landslide hazard. We also need to notify all of the other community water systems besides Del Mar. The coordinated water systems plan does not include these other small systems. We should talk to Lorna Parent about these.

Konrad pointed out that we also need to acquire the Gibraltar slide study, the County is still giving out permits for this area.

Roger told the committee members that we have collected the Skagit water systems plan, and that Jeroldine is currently collecting drainage and surface water plans to look at.

Survey

The survey is now in the mail, you should receive it by the end of this week. If you do not receive it, or if you know someone that needs an extra copy, please let Jeroldine know. The due date for the survey is January 24, it will be returned to PRR, and they will then return it to the survey company to be scanned. The return results should be pretty quick, and hopefully we will have some kind of report for the February meeting.

Outline

Please read over the outline and the Bayview Ridge Subarea Plan. We will start filling in the blanks on the outline soon, and it will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

TAC Update

Jim Mecca gave an update on the parks work that has been done by the TAC. The TAC has received a map from State Parks with the land classifications and the long-term boundary for the Deception Pass State park. There are smaller maps too, these will be copied and mailed out to the committee members. There is also a long-term comprehensive plan; several copies of this will be made of too.

The State Park now has approximately 4,000 acres of park land, about half is on Fidalgo Island and half is on Whidbey Island. The grey areas on the maps are lands that the park would like to acquire. Topics of discussion at these meetings included: the wildlife corridor, bike lanes on HWY 20, and public boat launches.

The wildlife corridor is not mentioned in the plans yet, it is just mentioned that there are two wildlife "islands". The wildlife corridor issue is not something that is going to be solved by this group. Ross has suggested in his memo that a study group may need to be formed. There are also some discrepancies in the definition of the corridor. In some places it is referred to as a trail, in other it is called a corridor. These two terms have very different meanings. This is currently the most significant land use issue on Fidalgo Island, although we don't know quite what it is yet.

There is an issue about use of the trail. If it is to be a wildlife corridor, will it be used? Will the wildlife know the difference? What stops them from using it now? How can this be maintained? How can what is currently there be preserved? If this is to be a trail, there will need to be an easement and a government action, it may or may not be possible to accomplish. Roger pointed out that there are ways to protect corridors without zoning changes, there could be a purchase of development rights, and this would be a voluntary program for land owners.

Another issue that was discussed at the parks meeting was the construction that will be going on with HWY 20. WSDOT will be replacing the log side barriers from Drucken Road (on Whidbey) up to the east side of Pass Lake. They will be replacing these logs with new barriers of steel covered by concrete and covered to resemble real logs. There is concern that this will further reduce the size of the already small bike lanes. The point of this new construction is aimed at improving motorists' safety, and keeping cars on the road. This construction is proposed to begin in 2-3 years.

The consultants and county have not yet talked to Public Works. We would like to build on what has already been done, particularly with the non-motorized plan. We would also like to get a copy of the Anacortes non-motorized plan.

As far as these TAC meetings are concerned, people would like to know about them more in advance. Some people do not have email and would like to receive phone notification about these meetings.

Land Use Mapping

We have been working on the land use map, this is really hard to get accurate, and we will probably end up just doing a drive around in order to produce a map. We have been unable to get a good air photo of the entire island, but we have received more detailed information about some areas such as Similk, tribal lands (Samish), and land trusts.

Another map that peoples would like to see is a map of proposed and possible annexations to Anacortes. The 2004 Anacortes annexations will probably be approved on Tuesday, and will be up for appeal for the next 60 days after that. It was also pointed out that the Anacortes community forest lands and the Anacortes UGA boundary are not the same, there are some Anacortes owned lands in the County. People would also like to see the boat launches mapped.

Other

We had a meeting with Corrine Story at Public health; she gave us information about Similk Beach and some other areas of concern. The CAC and TAC would like to hear what Public Health has to say; maybe Corrine could talk at an upcoming meeting.

The next Open House will probably occur in April, additional stakeholders (such as Public health) will be invited to this meeting.

There was a question about why small parcels in the Deer Lane area are treated differently from those in the Old Fidalgo City area. There was then some discussion on lot certification and Carol reminded us to keep an eye on the ordinance. There was also some discussion about mapping of substandard lots, but this is hard to do without personally knowing the area.

Roger pointed out that the Fidalgo Island Subarea plan is not intended to solve all of the issues on the Island, but to make recommendations for further studies and future projects.