



Whatcom County Critical Areas Update 2016 Citizens' Advisory Committee

MEETING NOTES May 6, 2015 3:30 – 5:30 PM

Northwest Annex Conference Room, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham

1. Call to Order

a. Sign In

Members Present

- Virginia Watson
- Kate Blystone
- Audrey Borders
- Wendy Harris
- David Haggith
- Roger Almskaar
- Wes Kentch
- Laura Sachs

Staff Present

- Cliff Strong
- Andy Weiser

b. Approval or modification of meeting summary: April 15, 2015

c. Public Comments (5 min)

- i. Sandy Robson – Came to watch the time limits issue
- ii. Carol Perry – Pointed out that unless you've been here watching and listening, it would be hard to interpret correctly what's been going on.

d. Staff Comments (10 min)

- i. Cliff reminded the CAC about the OPMA Training. Audrey turned hers in, Laura says she's done it and will get it to Cliff

e. Committee Member Comments (5 min)

- i. Wendy Harris – Was hard to come today because she feels bullied and doesn't feel like it's a safe place. She is insulted by the chair, and time restrictions seem to be placed on her and no one else. Too many insults, double standards, and behind-the-back talking.
- ii. Virginia Watson
 1. Spoke about a Seattle Times article (4/26) on the Governor's initiative on geohazards; urged other to read it.
 2. Regarding personality issues, she read a letter she's going to send to Executive Louws expressing her concern. She thought people have the right to write blogs, but that it was inflammatory for Dave Onkels to give Wes a copy just before the meeting.
 3. Suggested that perhaps it's time for the chair and vice chair to switch.
- iii. Audrey Borders –
 1. Regarding personality issues, though people get opinionated, she hasn't heard anyone insult any other member of the CAC at the meetings.
 2. She pointed out that their time commitment has increased from 2 to 4 hrs/mo.

- iv. Kate Blystone –
 - 1. Suggests that Cliff do more of the running of the meeting, manage the agenda, so as to free up Wes from having to do so and be able to participate as more of a member. Cliff agreed to do this.
 - 2. Also suggests we put housekeeping stuff to the end of the agenda, especially when we have a guest speaker.
- v. Roger Almskaar –
 - 1. The CAC needs to stick to the 2 meetings per month to finish their review.
 - 2. Also pointed out that when selling property, one has to disclose geohazards. Handed out real estate disclosure forms.
- vi. David Haggith – He's happy to continue w/ 2 mtgs/mo; it's very similar to the last update where they had to do the same thing.
- vii. Wes Kentch –
 - 1. Apologized if someone thought he was threatening anyone.
 - 2. Thought Wendy's blog undermined any attempts to get along.
- viii. Laura Sachs
 - 1. Has learned a lot from Wendy and appreciates her input.
 - 2. However, has noticed that anyone who disagrees with Wendy's point of view becomes her enemy. She has made unfounded accusations against other members.
 - 3. The negativity *has* to stop!

2. Old Business

- a. CAC time limits on speaking – Cliff pointed out that he remembers the 3 minute rule that the CAC adopted was for the Committee Member Comments part of the agenda, not a limit on discussion of the agenda items. The CACAC discussed the issue and concluded that time limits on discussion items generally need not be imposed.
- b. Continued Review of Article 3, Geohazards

The CACAC continued its review of proposed code amendments based on the CATAC recommendations. Before we started, the following two comments were made.

 - i. Roger Almskaar – The state defines 5 types of geohazards. Thinks our definition needs to be revised. Suggested that technical terms should be cross-referenced to one technical source paper so that if they change, ours changes.
 - ii. Wendy Harris – Pointed out that the rest of the geohazards that our code identifies are just subcategories of those 5.

The rest of the discussion is captured in the review draft.

3. New Business

- a. Review of Article 7, Habitat Conservation Areas (Time Permitting) – Didn't get to this.

4. **Next meeting:** May 20, 2015, 3:30 PM (Article 3, Geohazards, and Article 7, HCAs (time permitting))

5. Adjourn

There are eight members on the Critical Areas Citizens' Advisory Committee. If you will be giving written information to the members, please give a copy to the Staff for our office files as well.

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