TOWN OF YARROW POINT
PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION MINUTES
October 2, 2019

The following is a condensation of the proceedings and is not a verbatim transcript.

CALL TO ORDER:
Amy Pellegrini, Planning Commission Chair called the study session to order at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT:

Chairperson:	Amy Pellegrini
Commissioners:	Trevor Dash Chuck Hirsch Carl Hellings Jennifer Whittier
Staff:	Austen Wilcox – Town Deputy Clerk Mona Green – Town Planner
Guests:	Mary Elmore – Councilmember Jack Gale – Resident Dennis Buchanan - Resident Ronni McGlenn – Resident Brian Fleming – Resident Krista Fleming – Park Board member Kathy Smith – Park Board member Margot Schwartz - Resident

REGULAR BUSINESS:
SS 19-11 Private Property Tree Code – *For Discussion*

Town Planner Green reviewed the process from the past six months of the Planning Commission's consideration of a tree code for private property and the issues of clear cutting that have brought this topic to discussion. The Commission has been listening to resident feedback and researching the codes of nearby jurisdictions. At the September regular meeting, the Commission reviewed a draft code that has influences from City of Kirkland's tree code regulations. After listening to resident input, the Commission decided to not take such a strong initial approach to tree regulations and asked Planner Green to revise the code in the following areas:

- Require a tree permit based on size of tree
- Fee associated with tree permit
- Notification to surrounding property owners who live within a designated boundary
- Strive to retain trees in or around surrounding construction sites

A tree permit would give the opportunity for an arborist to review the trees to allow the opportunity for them to be saved.

Commissioner Hellings arrived at the study session at 7:17pm.

Commissioner Hirsch recommends a stronger approach to a tree code.

The Commission discussed the option of including penalties.

The Commission discussed the input heard from residents who are for and against a tree code.

The Commission discussed tree canopy, mitigation, and classification of diameter - 18".

Planner Green shared that while it is not currently a requirement, it is common practice for contractors to identify trees on surveys. This could be made into a requirement as part of a tree code.

The Commission reviewed different hypothetical scenarios and how trees would be impacted against discussed regulations.

Commission Chair Pellegrini suggested that residents submit comments for input to the Deputy Clerk to forward to the Planning Commission and Town Administration. The study session is to allow the Commission to review without public comment. Chair Pellegrini stated that she recommends the public to attend the October 14 regular meeting which will also allow them an opportunity to make an appearance.

The radius of notification of public awareness could be 300' which is currently the requirement for a variance.

The Commission guided Planner Green to include the following into the draft tree code:

- Radius of 300' – area for public notification
- Significant tree – 18" (diameter of trunk)
- Mitigation
- Contact of Department of Ecology regarding Eagles nests (a map indicating the location of nests would be beneficial. Town Planner Green will research)
- Inclusion of trees and species on site surveys
- Discussion of impacted trees required at pre-application conferences

MOTION: Commissioner Hirsch moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.
Commissioner Dash seconded the motion.

MOTION: Commissioner Hirsch moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.
Commissioner Dash seconded the motion.
VOTE: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain. Motion carried

APPROVED:

Amy Pellegrini, Chair

ATTEST:

Austen Wilcox, Deputy Clerk