MINUTES - Regular Meeting

Thurston County Planning Commission
Wednesday, June 5, 2002
County Courthouse Complex
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Building 1 - Room 152
Olympia, Washington 98502

1. Call to Order

Chair Bower, followed by introductions of Planning Commission members, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

a. Attendance

Members Present: Janet Reiner, Bob Bower, Liz Lyman, Tom Cole, Peggy Paradise, Brian Fagernes, and Mark Lovrien

Members Absent: Thomas Smith and Barbara Frost

Staff Present: Jennifer Hayes, Fred Knostman, and Sandy Norton

b. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Public Hearing: Application to Open Space Tax Program

Ms. Hayes provided a brief overview of the application for Open Space Classification submitted by David L. Edwards and Elsa Edwards. Ms. Hayes stated that David and Elsa Edwards submitted an application for Open Space classification, for a 90 percent reduction in value, on 10 acres of property located in western Thurston County, south of Lake Lucinda. A permanent conservation easement has been placed on the property. The 10 acre portion has been combined with an existing 40-acre parcel owned by the Edwards that is already enrolled in the Open Space Tax Program. Ms. Hayes stated that in order for the Edwards to be eligible for a reduced valuation on the 10 acre portion, the County Assessor advised that the Edwards must make a separate application for approval.

Chair Bower opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Elsa Edwards – 1607 East Bay Drive NE
Ms. Edwards stated that she and her husband currently have 40 acres enrolled in the Open Space-Open Space program and they have an easement with the Capital Land Trust on the land, as well as the additional 10 acres. It is all protected under the Capital Land Trust. We are delighted we can preserve the open land and hope that it is an asset to Thurston County. Ms. Edwards also stated that she hopes to have this as a package for tax purposes as well.

Chair Bower closed the public hearing at 7:12.
3. **Worksession/Action: Application to Open Space Tax Program**

Commissioner Cole moved seconded by Commissioner Lovrien to classify ten acres owned by David and Elsa Edwards as Open Space Open Space for a 90 percent reduction in value conditioned on a permanent conservation easement being placed on the property.

Motion carried.

4. **Public Communication**

None.

5. **Approval of May 1, 2002 Minutes**

Commissioner Lyman moved seconded by Commissioner Lovrien to approve the minutes for May 1, 2002. Motion carried.

6. **Approval of February 20, 2002 Minutes**

Commissioner Lyman moved seconded by Commissioner Cole to approve the minutes for February 20, 2002. Commissioner Reiner voted no. Motion carried.

7. **Planning Commission and Staff Updates**

*Thurston County Conservation District*

Chair Bower stated that he attended a meeting on June 4, 2002 where the Thurston County Conservation District provided a presentation on their program and what they can do for property owners. Chair Bower requested that the Conservation District provide a presentation to the Planning Commission. The Commission agreed.

Commissioner Reiner stated that the Commission should provide an equal opportunity for another organization of the “opposing” view, such as the Olympia Master Builders, Olympia Thurston County Association of Realtors, or any other building organization or development company to speak on other issues concerning wetlands, streams, etc. Commissioner Reiner also stated that it is important to have balance.

Commissioner Cole expressed concern with the view that would require allowing private interest groups to speak to the Commission on their point of view each time a government or staff agency presented their view. Commissioner Cole stated that public hearings are the appropriate place for private interest groups to express their views.

Chair Bower asked Mr. Knostman to check with Jeff Fancher on the legal position of the Commission relating to inviting private interest groups to a Commission meeting to provide a presentation on their
point of views on a topic when inviting a governmental agency to speak on a topic. Chair Bower also wanted to know the number of private interest groups the Commission would need to invite.

Ms. Hayes asked the Commission to notify her if there are additional private interest groups/organizations, etc., that are not shown on the master list of organizations regularly contacted for long-range planning projects. A copy of the master list has been provided to each Commission member. Ms. Hayes stated that the only way the County knows what groups are out there is by hearing from them, and that is how the mailing lists have been formed over the years.

**Future Briefings**

Mr. Knostman stated that later in the year the Commission would be briefed on several topics. Ms. Hayes will be briefing the Commission on the Natural Resource Lands Chapter updates. Mr. Sonnen will be briefing the Commission on the Natural Environment Chapter as well as the Critical Area Ordinance in hopes to have hearings the first part of next year for adoption in the middle of next year. This is to bring the Critical Area Ordinance into compliance with the Growth Management Act based on best available science.

**Historical Data**

Mr. Knostman stated that staff has been working with the Tribes and the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation to develop a “Memorandum of Understanding” to receive all of the historical data from the state office. With the County’s GIS system, we will know where all the tribal historic sites are located. This will not be available to the public.

**Anderson Road Project**

Commissioner Fagernes asked about the status of the Anderson Road project. Mr. Knostman stated the County is scheduled to have hearings. Mr. Knostman referred Commissioner Fagernes to Dale Rancour, Roads and Transportation Services and/or Roger Giebelhaus, Environmental Planner for additional information regarding the project.

**Development Services Department Director**

Mr. Knostman stated that the advertising for a new director might not take place until the end of the year because the Board is discussing reorganization.

**Appearance of Fairness Doctrine**

Chair Bower stated that it has been brought to his attention that Commissioner Reiner felt that he demeaned and threatened her. Chair Bower stated that it was not his intention and offered a sincere apology.

**8. Calendar (Tentative)**

Commission agreed to cancel the June 19, 2002 and July 3, 2002 regular scheduled meetings due to the
lack of agenda items. The next regular scheduled meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2002.

Commissioner Lovrien stated he would not be attending the July 17, 2002 meeting.

9. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

______________________________________________
Bob Bower, Chair
Peggy Paradise, Vice Chair
## Thurston County Planning Commission

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
**SUMMARY SHEET**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE OF REQUEST</th>
<th>ISSUE/REQUEST</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
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<td>06/05/02</td>
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