



TREE AD HOC COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016
2:30 – 4:00 PM
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
280 MADISON AVE N
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA 98110

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jon Quitslund, Kol Medina, Mack Pearl, & (late in the meeting) Ron Peltier

COBI STAFF: Jennifer Sutton

PUBLIC: Jonathan Davis

In Sarah Blossom's absence, Kol chaired the meeting, which came to order at 2:40 and ended shortly after 4:00 p.m. We discussed the Notes from the May 4 meeting, which were approved as distributed after discussion of some particulars in the changes to language in the Administrative Manual. Jennifer will make revisions informed by the discussion on 5/4 and 5/25, and those revisions will be made part of these notes.

Discussion of the Vegetation Management chapter was informed by a message that Kol sent after the May 4 meeting, by a couple of messages that Jon sent out shortly before the May 25 meeting, and by a page from Jennifer with a list of six "policy questions" to consider. Also, copies were distributed of the complicated "Flow chart for timber harvests" that is part of the Veg Management chapter.

Kol's message contains an important question: "What is the best way to protect the environmental functions of a piece of land?" He observes that some of what's required in our land use regulations don't provide much protection. The coming emphasis on low impact development is "a prime example of land use planning catching up with environmental science," and the protections accorded to critical areas (streams, wetlands, slopes, and prime aquifer recharge areas) are also based on environmental science.

Jennifer's list of policy questions contains a nugget of information: "Right now 16.22 is triggered generally when someone needs a Class 4 DNR Forest Practices Permit—clearing more than 5,000 board feet of timber." How does the application for this permit compare to the City's Vegetation Management permit application?

Our discussion reaffirmed the committee's interest in coordinating in a single chapter the regulations that are now dispersed in BIMC 16.22 (Vegetation Management) and 16.18 (Land Clearing). There was also agreement that the emphasis should be shifted from clear-cutting to stewardship and conservation.

Going forward with BIMC 16.22, our approach will not be to fiddle with additions and deletions, maintaining the organization of the present chapter, but starting almost from scratch, keeping those parts of the existing text that remain useful.

For special accommodations, please contact Jane Rasely, Planning & Community Development 206-780-3758 or at jrasely@bainbridgewa.gov

Near the end of the meeting, we considered putting together an account of our objectives for review and discussion in a Planning Commission meeting and then in a Council meeting, so that we have buy-in and some public understanding of our objectives.

Our next meeting will be on June 1, at 3 p. m.

Notes Approved: June 1, 2016