

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Whitman County Planning Commission

Date: Oct 19, 2022

Observer Reporting: Shelley Chambers Fox

Length of Meeting: 35 minutes

Members Present: Chad Whetzel, Brian Davies, Russ Jamison, Dave Gibney, David Tysz (Tekoa),
Weston Kane (LaCrosse), Mark Tolman (new member).

Absent: Fred Wexler, Matt Webb.

Others Present: Staff: Alan Thomson, Whitman County Planner; Grace DiBiase, Assistant County Planner;
Mark Storey, Director Public Works Engineer; Brandon Johnson, Public Works.

Public: none

Reports

1. **Board of Adjustment forthcoming hearings** – Side **setback variance** for Sam Young, Stoneway Electric for an adjacent building and a **conditional use permit** for GRYM K9 for a canine behavioral training center on Sand Rd. Hearings are set for November 10, 2022.

Public Hearing

1. Planning Commission Public meeting with the purpose of hearing public input on proposed code amendments to the following Chapters of zoning code:
 - a. Chapter 9.04, State Environmental Policy Act amended to note that an appeal of intermediate steps cannot be allowed.
 - a. Chapter 19.03 – Definitions added for assisted living facilities, bunkhouses and cabins;
 - b. Chapter 19.10 - Agricultural District; change in the number of residences on a parcel from one to two.
 - c. Chapter 19,12 – Cluster Residential District; clusters will require a public water system
 - d. Chapter 19.41 – Rural Community Center District (RCC-1); structures may be added to existing businesses by administrative permit. Add Assisted Living facilities to conditional uses for Rural Community Center 1 (RCC1) districts in the county.
 - e. Chapter 19.54 – Nonconforming Uses and Special Exceptions; Strike the section on nonconforming uses that applies to a house that is no longer lived in.
 - f. Chapter 19.59 – Surface Mining and Rock Crushing and the SEPA ordinance. Expansion of surface rock crushing does not require a new conditional use permit as long as the quarry is only being expanded 10% or less of the original size and the quarry is not within 1000 ft of a residence.
 - g. One comment was received from the State Dept of Ecology. Any proposed rock quarry will require a sand and gravel permit.
 - h. The Board approved these changes and voted unanimously that they should be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration.

Discussion

1. Dave Gibney pointed out that the Commission has not heard from **Pullman about the new airport overlay**. This has fallen off the radar due to a **change in planning leadership in Pullman** (This was discussed before RJ Lott became the new city planner.)

Unfinished Business

1. **The Shoreline Management Plan** is reviewed by counties in Washington state every 8 years. The plan addresses environmental protection and public access to shorelines. Consultant is working on this at the moment, should hear from them next month. The consultant will be in Colfax on Nov 2 talking about the Shoreline Plan at an in-person meeting in the auditorium with an option for Zoom attendance. Please let Alan know if you will be attending by Zoom.

Public Meetings of interest to League

1. County Planning Commission meeting on Nov 2 will be **in person** and will feature the consultant who has drafted a new Shoreline Management Plan.
2. Board of Adjustment forthcoming hearings – Side setback variance for Sam Young, Stoneway Electric for an adjacent building and a conditional use permit for GRYM K9 for a canine behavioral training center on Sand Rd. Hearings are set for November 10, 2022.

Process & Protocol: (Observations about participants and procedures of the meeting) *e.g.*, *Did the members appear to have done their “homework”?* Yes *Were members courteous to each other and the public?* Yes. *Was access to materials for certain agenda items available to you?* Yes, the agenda and meeting link were sent via email.

Next meeting is Nov 2, 2022. Consultant will be brought in again on the Shoreline Management Plan.