

Peshastin Community Council
Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 18, 2023

Peshastin Library

Council members present: Lauri Malmquist, chair; Doug Clarke, Steve Keene, Patricia Ortiz, Cheryl Parsley, Melissa Reuter

Council member absent, excused: Mark Smith

Guests: Mike Link, real estate developer, Bellevue
Carnan Bergren, real estate developer, Chelan Falls
Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resources, Wenatchee
Shon Smith, Chelan County Commissioner, Wenatchee
Deanna Walter, Director, Community Development, Wenatchee
Brandon Mauseth, consultant, SCJ Alliance, Wenatchee
Nick Rossi, Peshastin
Melissa Rossi, Peshastin
Kim Miller, librarian

Chair Lauri Malmquist called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. , followed by introduction of guests. Attendees were notified the meeting was recorded in entirety for accuracy.

1). Steve Keene and Mike Kaputa gave a presentation about a receipt of a \$35,000 grant for a feasibility study for use of the Peshastin Mill Site owned by Bill Goebel. A new state program under the Recreation and Conservation Office provides funds focused on communities that are not usually considered for these, with a focus on recreation and conservation.

The consulting office of SCJ Alliance, Wenatchee has been retained to develop a plan and create a timeline. The Council will be needed to assist with community engagement. Mike Kaputa thinks that being recognized by this state program is likely to be helpful when applying for funding in the future.

2). In addition the Chelan-Douglas Transportation Council is reviving an effort to evaluate the feasibility of a connecting trail for pedestrian, bicycle and e-bike use between Wenatchee and Leavenworth. Chelan County will be the lead agency, and is requesting volunteers for this effort. Steve Keene volunteered to participate in the committee working on this.

3). Deanna Walter and Commissioner Smith were invited to respond to specific questions from the Council:

FIRST, why was the Council removed from receiving notifications about County issues within the Peshastin area, such as applications for zoning change, etc.? Deanna Walter stated the Community Council has no power, is an advisory council only, and there is no way to identify the Peshastin area; the Council recommended using the Community Council boundary map. Ms. Walter stated that boundary line adjustments, building permits and some SEPA applications don't require notifications, and that all county actions are online at the county website where they could be searched. Conditional use permit applications require public notice and a public hearing, and those are posted in the Wenatchee World. It was pointed out that very few people have access to and read the Wenatchee World, and the Council has an email list of over 100 names of people who have shown interest in the past and could easily be notified of impending actions by the County. Commissioner Smith said he will research this issue and report back to the Council.

SECOND, Doug Clarke asked about a recent approval for an STR on Nibbelink Rd., surrounded by Agricultural zoning, in which the 100 foot setback was said to be invalid, in spite of objections of neighbor orchardists. Ms. Walter and Commissioner Smith were unaware of the details of this application.

THIRD, the Council would like to know the rationale for the approval of STRs in the residential zones of Peshastin, which are explicitly not allowed in the UGA document. Chair Malmquist has contacted Ms. Walter several times about this issue, without any response. Ms. Walter states that the state Supreme Court asked her to rescind the initial decision against the Davises, and that previously when the issue was in litigation she was specifically asked not to make any statement about it. Patricia Ortiz asked why STRs would be allowed in residential areas when no commercial activity is allowed in R1, R2 or R3 zones within the UGA. Ms. Walter said she is not familiar with the details of the Peshastin UGA document and will need to review it before responding.

Mike Kaputa and Brandon Mauseth left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Ms. Walter said that in the future she is available to respond to Council questions, and would like to have a list of questions before a meeting so she can do adequate preparation. Her email is DeannaC.Walter@co.chelan.wa.us

There was a brief discussion of the planned Peshastin bridge resurfacing project scheduled for spring/summer 2024.

Shon Smith, Deanna Walter, Carnan Bergren and Mike Link left the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

4). The minutes of the meeting August 16, 2023 were approved by consensus. September 2023 meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum. It was agreed that in the future council members are responsible for reading minutes ahead of the meeting, and will bring forth any corrections as needed. Otherwise minutes will be approved by vote without being read at the meeting.

5). Treasurer's report: current bank balance of \$645.72. Lauri will pay for the annual renewal of Constant Contact, the email contact list, and will submit the receipt for reimbursement.

6). Peshastin Water District: Steve reports there is a signed agreement with the PUD; new meters are now scheduled for March. The PUD will not take over management until new meters are installed.

New Business:

- 1). Santa breakfast: date set for the second Saturday in December, December 9 this year.
- 2). Downtown Peshastin garbage pickup set for Saturday October 28; meet at the post office at 9 am.
- 3). Broken truck on Hi-up property near the entrance of waterfront trail is being further vandalized and filled with garbage. Nick Rossi will talk to Hi-up to see if it can be removed.
- 4). Nick and Melissa Rossi have an appeal to the decision of the County Hearing Examiner which upheld the application of Carnan Bergren for a housing development on Larson Rd. The appeal is scheduled to be held in Grant County in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday November 15, 2023 at the Peshastin Library.