



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Minutes

August 2, 2017

Present: Ken, Paul, Tom, Chuck, Aubrey, Lisa, Gordy, Al, Tim and Dave

Absent: Steve and Fred

Guest: Dan Rankin (Darrington mayor), Glen Glover (DNR), Kathy Mitchel (Planning Commission), Randy Good (citizen at large), Commissioner Janicki, Ryan Walters (Planning Department)

- I. Welcome and thank you to the guest joining the meeting today. The main reason for their visit is due to the discussion item relating to changing special uses within the Industrial Forest land designation in the zoning code.
- II. Minutes: Paul moved, and Tom seconded to approve the July minutes.
- III. Discussion:
 - a. Zoning code Amendment to Industrial Forestry section of the codes. Gordy and Paul testified at the Planning Commission hearing noting that the FAB had not yet had a chance to consider this change and what the potential consequences could be. Commissioner Janicki gave some background and had asked the FAB to consider a recommendation on a potential change to the special use section of this designation that related to requiring a Special Use to construct a trail in this zoning designation. Glen Glover said the Planning Department considered the trail to be a conversion thus creating longer permitting requirements. The change would be to allow a trail as an outright permitted use. Both Dan Rankin and Glen Glover talked to the FAB about why they would like the change. (This would allow the DNR to complete a trail that may help the town of Darrington with their economy by bringing folks to the location for more outdoor activities, including Glacier Peak Institute. DNR noted that most jurisdictions don't require a SUP for this type of work and landowners would be able to cut trails when and where they like on their property.) The FAB agreed that there was a lot of sense to this request, however, there was some concern about how some folks may regard the land these trails are on in the future...i.e. forgetting they are on DNR trust land that may be harvested at any given time for the benefit of the trust. Also, if trails are constructed too close to adjacent property lines then there could be some trespass issues. DNR noted the trail would be no wider than 25" to 40". After more discussion, which included emphasizing that this activity would NOT be a conversion as suggested by the Planning Department, and resource concerns like Walker Valley ORV Park needed to be avoided in the future, the FAB felt the change would be okay.
 - b. Blanchard Update: Tom gave an update – basically everything on hold since a Capital Budget has not been passed.
 - c. RFI: FAB discussed next steps and how to share with PC and BoCC that this was not to be a complicated process. Still working on a letter and how to present it. RFI should be a standalone code change and not linked to everything the Planning Department added (clearing and grading and taking on forest practices Class IVs).
- IV. November meeting changed to the 1st
- V. Adjourn 9:00 p.m.