

Review of Gardiner Community Meeting

On Monday, May 9, the community of Gardiner came together with the following county representatives: Greg Brotherton, *Jefferson County Commissioner, District 3*, Joe Nole, *Jefferson County Sheriff*, Eron Berg, *Executive Director* and Eric Toews, *Port of Port Townsend Port Commission*. The meeting discussed four of Gardiner's concerns.

1 - No Shoot Area

The process to establish a no shoot area in Gardiner beach has begun. A petition of twenty signatures has been submitted to the county and those signatures have been certified. What is not yet decided are the boundaries for the area. The requested boundaries for the Gardiner No Shoot Area are from the boat launch on the west to the highest water line of the lagoon on the east, and from the northern Jefferson county line in Discovery Bay to the highest water line in the wetlands and lagoon to the south.

The next step occurs Tuesday, May 17; it's a virtual workshop at 5:00 p.m. Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will listen to all local tribes and interested persons for or against establishing the Gardiner Beach No Shooting Area. The workshop will gather input to inform on next steps.

- To join by zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93777841705>
- Submit written input to: jeffbocc@co.jefferson.wa.us by May 16, 4:00 p.m.
- Questions: Adiel at 360-385-9102

A no shooting zone "can include state owned (WDFW) land". Comm. Brotherton

2 - Crime

To report crime, contact sheriff's dispatch number 360-344-9779, not 911.

It is important to contact the sheriff if you witness or experience crime in neighborhood.

A Neighborhood Watch is effective. Sheriff's Dept. will meet with group interested in forming one.

- Sheriff will also provide signage for the area.
- If interested in participating, contact Linda Fitzgerald pughouse@embarqmail.com.

Fireworks on the beach:

- Fireworks are illegal on PoPT and F&G property.
- Tribal fireworks (legally sold) are only legal on tribal land.
- Jefferson county new laws restricting fireworks will take one year to take affect (2023). These laws "allow for Clallam Fire District 3 to declare "high" fire danger. It includes fire districts that are partially in Jefferson County." Comm. Brotherton
- Brotherton is looking into reserving a speed reader over the 4th of July weekend.

It is not clear what authority exists over the No Camping restriction; if called, the sheriff will come out and ask party to leave.

3 - Gardiner Community Development Plan

Gardiner's independent community plan has been incorporated into Jefferson County's Community Development Plan. There would need to be a "fundamental issue" evidenced to warrant a new sub-area plan.

A Gardiner committee would need to update it's sub-area plan and compare it to the county's plan to determine if Gardiner's plan identified a "fundamental issue" that should be considered by the BOCC.

If you would like to participate in this process, contact Ann Waldron at annwaldron45@gmail.com.

4 - Boat Launch Improvement Plan

The community's concerns for the PoPT's plans centered around the increase in traffic, preservation of the shoreline, the need to coordinate simultaneous launch and parking improvements, and clarification of who was responsible for the maintenance and safety of the area.

USE

Gunstone Trust gave the PoPT an easement for a “recreational use” boat launch.

- Permission for commercial use is not given.
- Tribal fishing is considered different from commercial.
- PoPT does not want to lose its easement; they recognized the need to control commercial use.

MAINTENANCE

PoPT plans to remove seasonal floating wharf and store it on land during winter months.

PoPT recognized the challenges of multiple ownership: county (PUD) has eastern parking, F&G has western boat access path and toilet.

PoPT expressed interest in getting management for whole area.

SAFETY

PoPT acknowledged telephone line crossing launch ramp is a hazard. It will look into creating an alternative route for line.

There was discussion about current traffic problems and how they will increase when the launch is enhanced. Resident James Obtinario testified to traffic on Old Gardiner Road moving at speeds up to 70 MPH. The county-directed road to the launch, Rondelay, and the road west of the launch are too narrow for two-lane traffic and speeds higher than 25 MPH. Possible solutions to traffic issues were made: one-way traffic, speed bumps, increased traffic control signs.

If there are community members who wish to discuss Gardiner’s traffic issues with Comm. Greg Brotherton, let Fran Reynolds know fr521@yahoo.com. Comm. Brotherton will meet with us. Perhaps there are adjustments that can be made before problems elevate.

Permits and Funding

PoPT’s time frame for construction:

- 2022 – Complete survey; obtain permits
- 2023 – Obtain bids for 2024 construction

Due to their desire to use available funding and belief in current ADA access policies, PoPT’s drive is to produce launch and floating wharf first.

Ramps are not “freebies”; boaters pay for an annual Ramp Pass.

The installation of “Iron Rangers”, pay stations, is being considered.

From Eron Berg, Ex. Director PoPT:

They are adding a project page to their website: RCO presentation, funding agreement, draft plans and the interlocal agreement on operating the launch from the 1980’s.

He looks “forward to more community meetings”.

Recommendation for the Fall 2022

Because the May 9 meeting was well attended and the county representatives expressed interest in continuing the discussions on illegal activity, traffic and launch improvements, it is our plan to host another community meeting at the Gardiner Community Center in the fall.

Your feedback is appreciated.

Fran Reynolds

fr521@yahoo.com