

## Public Comments for the January 12, 2022 Port Commission Meeting

**From:** Erin Inclan <[erininclan7@gmail.com](mailto:erininclan7@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 7, 2022 8:00 AM

**To:** [publiccomment@cityofpt.us](mailto:publiccomment@cityofpt.us)

**Cc:** [jmauro@cityofpt.us](mailto:jmauro@cityofpt.us); Eron Berg <[Eron@portofpt.com](mailto:Eron@portofpt.com)>; [kstreet@jeffpud.org](mailto:kstreet@jeffpud.org); [kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org); [dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org); [jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org); Pete Hanke <[phanke@portofpt.com](mailto:phanke@portofpt.com)>; Bill Putney <[bill@portofpt.com](mailto:bill@portofpt.com)>; Pam Petranek <[Pam@portofpt.com](mailto:Pam@portofpt.com)>

**Subject:** Protect our beloved poplars

Dear Port Townsend city leaders and decision makers,

I urge you to reconsider your decision to destroy the poplar trees on Sims Way. I was born and raised in Port Townsend. I'm fourth generation on the Olympic Peninsula. My father was a commercial boat builder and fisherman. I grew up in the port and boatyards. I absolutely support a working boatyard. But I sure do love those poplar trees. They're beautiful. Birds live in them. They welcome people to our town with a breathtaking view.

There's no need to cut them down.

I'm sure there are many more economically feasible and sustainable ways to address whatever ails Sims Way. Port Townsend is full of well-educated, informed, creative people who can help you find alternative solutions. Let's figure this out together!

What do we want from our city leaders?

- We want to keep and maintain our beloved poplar and madrona trees.
- Yes, we want a vibrant working boatyard too.
- We want to invest in infrastructure improvements that *make sense*.
- We want to protect our historic seaport gateway and culture.
- We want a meaningful public process before cutting any trees.
- We want city leaders who care about our town.

Cutting down the Port Townsend poplars would be a terrible decision—a tragedy. Please reconsider and preserve these trees. We truly love them.

Sincerely,

Erin Gould Inclan  
PTHS '85

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**From:** [kacicronkhite@gmail.com](mailto:kacicronkhite@gmail.com) <[kacicronkhite@gmail.com](mailto:kacicronkhite@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:11 AM

**To:** Eron Berg

**Cc:** Pam Petranek; Pete Hanke; Carol L Hasse

**Subject:** Public comment re: Sims Way project

Dear Eron,

Thank you for the tour yesterday and discussion related to expansion and improvements of the Boat Haven Boatyard toward Sims Way.

I appreciate yours, staff, and Commissioners efforts to collaborate with City, County, and PUD.

**Regarding the Sims Way project:** I support:

- PUD undergrounding of electric and internet lines
- new Port fencing
- City improvements for pedestrian and wheeled traffic.

However, there are still too many unanswered questions regarding the trees and Port costs (including lost income during construction) of expanding the boatyard.

Therefore I **do not support removal of the Lombardi Poplar trees or full throttle expansion of the boatyard that direction until further research is done.**

My concerns and request for more research/information focus on two measures: Environmental impacts (water management and net carbon effect) and overall cost and ROI for short+long-term Port sustainability.

**Some unanswered questions:**

1. How much water do the trees absorb?
2. Where will that water go IF the trees are removed?
3. As sea level rises, what trees would be as hardy and low maintenance as the Poplars seem to be come hell of boatyard/autos or high salt water penetration?

Despite the PUD cutting Poplars down north of the long-term storage... new shoots are growing from the stumps. Those Poplars are tough!



We've lost a devastating number of trees on the Peninsula this year and in addition to cleaning the air we breathe, the trees are working for us underground, too.

Thanks for your consideration of the bigger picture and prudence with each next step.

Sincerely,

Kaci

**Kaci Cronkhite**

*Port Townsend*

Jan 12, 2022

Subject: public comment regarding Sims Way Project

Hello Commissioners

I am Julie Jaman, a 40 year resident and supporter of marine trades. I am representing the Olympic Environmental Council, Friends of Kah Tai, the Gateway Poplar Alliance and other community members with years of community involvement and their children. We are collectively known as pushback

The Sims Way Project narrative offered online is incomplete, more an outline. The plan has been piecemealed into three projects thus no SEPA review, no due diligence, no public review

Before saws are sharpened or any work begins a thorough and well tuned plan is needed that includes costs and impacts:

- Centurylink lines
- East Jefferson Fire and Rescue hydrants
- City of Port Townsend water, sewer, and stormwater swales
- PUD electrical, broadband, and concrete sidewalks
- Port infrastructure options
- Options other than removing poplars and madrones
- And what else?

The real and long term costs for taxpayers and ratepayers

- digging up and reconfiguring vaults, lines, hydrants, water, sewer and stormwater pipes.
- how much CO2- intense concrete will be poured?
- options other than the most expensive trenching and maintenance of high voltage line
- costs for landscape maintenance, irrigation, amending soils, and general upkeep
- what is lost when the trees are gone?

How is it that the PUD is designing a whole new look for the Port Townsend Gateway?

- One staff person designed a concept contrary to the Gateway Development Plan
- The PUD ratepayers will bear the brunt
- The historic sea port will be outfitted in a design fit for a mall

The City Manager may be collaborating but

- No jobs are created by cutting right of way poplars
- City manager unilaterally declared poplars will not be replanted
- City manager's 10 "professional stakeholders" are to choose landscape plantings
- No research on the functions of poplars including preventing liquefaction during earthquakes, filtration, habitat and acting as windbreaks.

The Port Director provided 3 principles for the Quilcene public process for the Herb Beck marina:

1. The plan must have broad community support and must be aligned with the community's vision for the future.
2. The plan must be consistent with and helps to implement the mission and purpose of the Port
3. The plan must meet the Port's triple-bottom line

We agree with these principles and want them applied here in Port Townsend

And there are adopted documents that provide overarching vision and intention so that the legacy of this historic seaport will not be lost in the future, for our kids.

When you have time you might pursue

- The Formula Store Ordinance;
- The Gateway Development Plan;
- The Parks Functional Plan;

You all remember Peter Simpson's "City of Dreams"; an essential resource for a thorough plan that "... balances the economic, environmental and social consequences of the proposed actions."

Thank you,

Julie Jaman