

Public Comments for the March 9, 2022 Port Commission Meeting

From: Mary Elayne

Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 2:02 PM

To: David Faber; Amy Howard; Aislinn Diamanti; Ben Thomas; Monica MickHager; Owen Rowe; Libby Wennstrom; John Mauro; Carol Hasse; Pam Petranek; Pete Hanke; Eron Berg; Kevin Streett; Jeff Randall; Ken Collins; Dan Toepper

Subject: Retaining Sims Way poplars

Dear Port Townsend City Manager Mauro and Members of the City Council:

I have been following The Leader's coverage of the proposal to remove the Lombardy Poplars along Sims Way bordering Kah Tai Lagoon and the boatyard. One of the reasons apparently is their "short" lifespan.

It got my attention because around 1967 when some of the present trees were planted, I recall the reason the old trees failed likely wasn't age but because salty sand dredged from the boat haven was dumped along the lagoon side of Sims Way and damaged the existing trees.

Both of my parents, Judge A. Clemens Grady and Irene Joy Grady, were involved in civic affairs. In the '60s, my mother led the Port Townsend Beautification Committee (the group that created the "Welcome" sign and plantings at the "H"-shaped intersection about a mile south of the City limits). About 1967 that group helped replant poplars along Kah Tai. I remember being there one day with my husband and our car wheels almost got stuck in the sand at the north end.

I'm a native of Port Townsend and long before the expansion of businesses along that stretch of highway, the poplars always were a welcoming symbol of the city. It is not clear to me that the present replacement proposal is giving any weight to the historic presence of these trees - in what is advertised as Historic Port Townsend.

From my history, I believe the poplars as a tree variety have endured well over the decades, hurt mostly by the dumping of the salty dredged sand. I urge you to insure more dedicated care for the existing trees and preserve this iconic landscape.

Thank you. Mary Elayne (Grady) Dunphy

ARC Group is a Washington State registered, federally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit which, for four decades, has dedicated its efforts toward achieving better governance of Earth's finite water resources.

From: Sylvia Platt

Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 11:12 AM

To: commissioners@jeffpud.org; Carol Hasse; Pam Petranek; Pete Hanke

Cc: publiccomment@cityofpt.us

Subject: Sims Way Poplars/Port Expansion/Undergrounding Power Lines

Dear Commissioners,

If I could appear before you, I might invoke Diana Ross and start singing, "Stop, in the name of Love!" Because I'd like to entertain you as well as exhort you.

In the meantime, I write to ask that you please vote to "underground" the power lines along Sims Way at the Boatyard and refrain from cutting any trees at this time; and when you do dig near them, do as little damage to the trees as possible.

There are many reasons why this is the right decision (global warming, the rights of plants, the bad aesthetics of cutting the trees that greet all who enter our fair town, the large group of citizens who oppose this plan and the lack of process involved, the wonder at the idea that somehow cutting the trees is good for tourism, the fundamental question about the place of tourism in our decision-making process, the questionable processes followed in making the decision to cut the trees and expand the Port, the overwhelming number of trees being cut in the county at this time, etc., etc).

Beyond all these reasons, though, for me, is the overarching issue of growth. "How big is big enough? How big do you (the Port) hope to grow? Do you imagine continuing to grow and grow? Is that sustainable? Is your job to keep expanding the Port or to define and maintain it at a healthy size? How will you recognize when you are big enough?"

My hope continues to be that you, my representatives (and I believe I voted for each and every one of you who ran for office), that YOU, will make decisions based on what is best for the planet and for the community, the community of people who live here. Can you imagine a world in which all decisions are made in a way that values the health of the planet first as well as local communities? Let's create this world now.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Platt

A society that could heal the dismembered world would recognize the inherent value of each person and of the plant, animal and elemental life that makes up the earth's living body; it would offer real protection, encourage free expression, and reestablish an ecological balance to be biologically and economically sustainable. Its underlying metaphor would be mystery, the sense of wonder at all that is beyond us and around us, at the forces that sustain our lives and the intricate complexity and beauty of their dance.

~ Starhawk

From: Bo Bricklemyer

Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 6:39 PM

To: commissioners@jeffpud.org

Cc: Carol Hasse; Pam Petranek; Pete Hanke

Subject: Power placed underground; poplars remaining standing proud

Dear Commissioners,

Please consider and then vote to going forward with undergrounding the power lines along Sims way at the Boatyard, and forgoing, for the time being, money from the county grant - apparently available only if the trees are cut.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Eugene C. Bricklemyer, J.D., LL.M.

President

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