

Joanna Sanders

From: Eron Berg
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 8:18 AM
To: Joanna Sanders
Subject: FW: Short Family Farm

From: Eric Taylor <spamcan57@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2022 7:17 AM
To: Pam Petranek <Pam@portofpt.com>; Carol Hasse <Carol@portofpt.com>; Pete Hanke <phanke@portofpt.com>; Eron Berg <Eron@portofpt.com>
Subject: Short Family Farm

Port Commissioners & Executive Director:

I see that the potential purchase of the Short Family Farm is on the agenda for this week's Port meeting. Looking at the minutes from the 11/9/22 Port meeting, I see it was discussed then also.

To quote Eron Berg from section IX staff comments:

"A lot of meeting time has been spent on the Short Farm to foster efforts in food production, sustainable agriculture, and salmon restoration. A special commission meeting might be held at the Grange in January to share with the Commission learnings of the Phase 1 and 2 investigative assessment and hear from the agriculture community before approving the acquisition and moving forward with development plan. At the time of approving the acquisition, there would remain many unanswered questions."

The way that comment is worded makes it sound like this purchase is a done deal already, and the Port is only going through the motions of getting public input.

It seems like there is a "build it and they will come" attitude, instead of "let's have a plan in place first which answers all the questions".

As per my previous letter (see below), I feel that this would not be a good move for the Port. I think that the Port needs to spend it's precious financial resources on maintaining their existing facilities, instead of buying more property-- which will require even more money to maintain & develop.

I would like to see the Short family farm remain privately owned and operated. I believe that this would be a suitable issue for EDC Team Jefferson to get involved with-- to facilitate plans for a private party (or collaborative group of private parties) to purchase the property. Isn't this sort of thing more in their bailiwick?

Thank you for your attention,

~Eric Taylor
172 Wycoff Road
Port Townsend, WA 98368

On Sun, Oct 16, 2022 at 7:58 AM Eric Taylor <spamcan57@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Port Commissioners:

I just read an article in the Peninsula Daily News about the Port being interested in purchasing the Short Family Farm. I would like to see the local agricultural / ranching economy get a shot in the arm, but I don't think the Port buying the Short farm is the way to do it.

I don't want to see a productive and profitable beef cattle operation turn into a questionable financial experiment.

The Port would have to spend two to three million dollars to buy the property, then who knows how much more money every year to operate it.

I think the Port needs to instead spend it's money getting their existing infrastructure at Point Hudson, the Boat Haven, and the airport up to snuff

As private property, this farm contributes thousands of dollars every year in property taxes that supports our local infrastructure.

There is already way too much property in Jefferson County off the tax rolls due to being owned by federal or local agencies,

and more being added every year, leaving us taxpayers to shoulder more and more of this burden-- we don't need more dead weight.

As your constituent, I urge you to NOT purchase the Short Family Farm.

Thank you for your attention,

Eric Taylor
172 Wycoff Road
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Joanna Sanders

From: Eron Berg
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 8:13 AM
To: Joanna Sanders; Pam Petranek; Carol Hasse; Pete Hanke
Cc: Eric Toews
Subject: FW: Aquisition of the Short Farm and agriicute

From: George Yount <gyount@olypen.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2022 10:38 PM
To: Eron Berg <Eron@portofpt.com>; Eric Toews <eric@portofpt.com>
Subject: Aquisition of the Short Farm and agriicute

Commissioners Pete Hanke, Pam Petranek, Carol Hasse

Executive Director: Eron Berg

Deputy Director: Eric Toews

11/20/2022

I may have the wrong e-mails for the Commissioners. My eye sight is extremely poor. If you could pass this along to them, I would appreciate it. Thanks...

George

I am troubled by the Port's interest in purchasing Roger Short's property in Chimacum valley. I would love to see Roger relieved of his property and that he can find peace and comfort in his retirement. But in my mind there are too many economic and environmental issues regarding his property. What is the Port's mission and role that can justify this purchase? For me this cart is ten miles ahead of its horse.

As most public agencies, the Port bases its decisions and actions on publicly rooted mission statements, policy, goals, and a strategic plan of action. Since 1980 the Port of Port Townsend has relied on a strong citizen involvement strategy. With this land acquisition, the Port appears to be embarking on a whole new economic element, agriculture. This is not identified in any of its planning documents as a comprehensive plan, comprehensive schemes, or Strategic plans. This is a major shift in how the Port views its role as a catalyst for economic

development. There needs to be some serious community conversation and buy in on this issue.

We need to have a close look at commercial agriculture in Jefferson County. Is it a viable part of our county's economic base now and in the long term? We should consider its size, diversity, and whether it is based pm commercial and/or hobby farms. What do these folks think the Port can do to specifically enhance their bottom lines? Is it product storage, distribution, and marketing? Is it infrastructure like worker housing or mobile slaughter facilities? If so, how much commitment from the farmers do we have to make it acceptable for the Port to invest? Does the triple bottom line still apply here?

It is my view we need community support with goals, plans, and strategies. We do not want another good idea with bad results like a vacant three story building hauled into Port Townsend and placed on Cass Street for low income rental.

Around 2008 there was a great deal of controversy and conflict between citizens and some farmers over land use issues like the Shoreline Management Plan and the Critical Areas Ordinance. Issues like riparian zones and plans to restore the summer chum salmon to Chimacum Creek became community fault lines whether it is appropriate to dredge the creek for flood control or save the creek and its tributaries for salmon spawning. Roger Shorts' property is in the middle of this fault line. Jefferson Land Trust has purchased the development rights to the Short farm. Land Trust claims it protects the riparian zones but I am not sure. The Port could find itself in the middle of this controversy.

When it comes to future development of Chimacum and Beaver Valley, I would suggest you review the East Jefferson Watershed Council WRIA 17 findings and conclusions with regard to water supplies from the Chimacum Creek watershed. An extensive ground water survey concluded there is enough ground water to supply 58 new residences or three new farms but not both.

Respectfully submitted

George Yount

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