

From: [Neville Pearsall](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Cc: [Neville Pearsall](#)
Subject: Shorts farm
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2023 2:57:25 PM

Please note your email comments link on the shorts farm page has the incorrect address so my first attempt was rejected. It has public comment@portofpt.com
That would limit comments.
Trying again.

As an immediate neighbor on the west property line I am not in favor of all the noise created by the “magic dirt “ operation right outside my kitchen window. It should be zoned industrial not agriculture even though topsoil is being manufactured.

They have used the most noisy and obnoxious chipper machine for long periods. I don’t mind the manure smell as much as the noise.

When we bought the property 40 years ago there was about 40 or 50 acres of forest on the other side of the fence that was clear cut by the Shorts in the 80’s

We also don’t like the Chimacum alarm clock of shotguns at one minute after dawn for two months of water fowl hunting. Sounds like it is right at our window. Usually about 15 or 20 blasts at dawn followed by intermittent battles every half hour. Shotguns are not delicate weapons.

As for future development an orchard or vineyard on the west side hilltop seems good. Maybe potatoes.

Please No housing for workers right on our fence line. We already had to endure that placement and a wacko employee of the farm. Put that near the Center Road developments and infrastructure.

I like the sound of a tree growing.
Neville Pearsall

From: [Natalie Smith](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: Short's Farm Purchase
Date: Monday, January 16, 2023 5:48:41 AM

Good Morning,

I am a farmer living in Chimacum & working for an established farm in the valley. First, thanks to the Port and the community as a whole for caring about the land and it's use for agriculture, as well as small business. I am proud to be a part of such a community. I wanted to chime in what little I can offer in terms of the potential Port purchase of the Shorts farm property in Chimacum.

In terms of the property, I don't know how viable it would be to divide into smaller parcels for leasing as I do think the best use of that land due to flooding, etc., is to rotate ruminant animals on pasture. I'm sure more expert voices could contribute to the logistics of this, but I am curious how much of the property would be useable for growing produce. I'm sure this is a detail the Port has investigated. If it is viable to break it into smaller parcels for an incubator farm type model, that would be one ideal. It is excellent pasture land in my eyes, for grazing and hay production. It also has incredibly rich soil. As I believe it was used in the past, it's also viable grounds for raising dairy cattle.

I also see immense community value in its current use and future potential for a community hunting grounds. It is also clearly a priceless habitat for wildlife.

In summary of above, I believe this land absolutely needs to maintain its use as ruminant livestock pasture, hunting grounds, and wildlife preservation.

As for the current infrastructure, I do believe there is a need for storage facilities for small farms to use (walk in cooler space, long term covered storage, climate controlled storage), tool, tractor and resource sharing, etc. Also, some local small farmers could potentially benefit from utilizing the current farmstand facilities.

The community would benefit greatly from a processing facility for local livestock farmers. Reducing the travel time between farm and processing facility greatly reduces stress on the animal as well as reduces the carbon footprint of the food supply. This comes with its own challenges of USDA inspection and management of other regulations, financial investment including sewage(?) if even viable, etc. But I see a great need here in our community that I wonder if this property & the Port could somehow provide. Here is an interesting relevant read: <https://modernfarmer.com/2021/07/rancher-meat-co-ops/>

Another substantial need in the local agricultural community beyond physical land use &

affordability, as well as start-up resources, is affordable housing. For local farms who hire seasonal crew members, a lack of reliable affordable housing has become one of the greatest barriers to hiring, and negatively impacts the longevity of farming in the area as a career for young farmers. If there was a way to utilize the Shorts property to provide farmer housing, I would see that as a win as well.

Last but not least, this land could be purchased and “simply given back” to the indigenous tribe(s) in the area to manage how they see fit with the financial support of the Port and the community, in alignment with conservation easement guidelines. We occupy unjustly colonized lands that are the traditional territories of the S’Klallam and Chemakum people. Perhaps we could use this opportunity an act of collaboration and reparation. I am ignorant to the logistics of such a plan but everything is possible.

I wish I could be in town for the meeting to learn more. I would love to see the Port and our community paving the way forward in agriculture by creatively utilizing a community, cooperative-based model

Thank you very much,
Natalie Smith