**LWVSJ Observer Corps\* Notes Friday Harbor Port Commission, April 12, 2023**

The Commission approved legal expenses to **move a property line** where a small portion of a road in Shipyard Cove is on a neighboring property, and for initial design work at Shipyard Cove. The Commission approved a **grant application and a contract for the Southwest Development Area Environmental Assessment.** It will cover many proposed design elements so that individual assessments for those elements will be in place when the project moves forward.

The Commission set a limit to allow certain customers at **Jensen’s Marina to transfer moorage** **with vessels sales** through December 31, 2024.

**District 3 Commissioner Victoria Compton resigned her position**. The Commission gave the executive director bill pay authority until the position is filled. The Commission has **90 days to appoint an interim Commissioner** until the next election. They will publicize the vacancy and **seek expressions of interest to fill the position by May 18.** They will review and interview applicants, discuss selection in an executive session and appoint an interim commissioner at an open public meeting. Whoever is elected in November will fill the remaining four years in the term. The commissioners thanked Compton for her work.

The Commission approved final revisions **to rules and regulations for all marinas and live-aboard policies.** Changes include a 10-day to accept a slip offer or go to the bottom of the waitlist: the time a someone may sublet a slip after selling a vessel if they intend to close their account was reduced from 6 months to 30 days; the institution of background checks to get moorage.

The Port director had informed the **five tribal groups affected about marina expansion plans** and received comments from the Lummi and Suquamish. So far, only the Suquamish have requested accommodation in compensation for impact on fishing areas. The Port hired a negotiator with tribal experience to open conversations with all tribes with a potential stake, seeking to get an agreement that meets the needs of the tribes and keeps the marina project economically viable before beginning the permitting process.

The Commission supported the Port developing **covered bike storage,** especially for electric bikes. The Port Director proposed rolling this into a proposal to seek permits to build kiosks on the main pier.

The Port auditor **reviewed 2022 financial performance.** Revenue exceeded expenditure, helped fund capital projects, and allowed the Port to increase reserves and set aside funds for future loan repayment. The funds are invested in a local government investment pool earning $.75 return annually while leaving funds liquid for use as working capital. While most operations are profitable, the boat yard is running at a loss, as the Port works on taking on deferred maintenance.

The Port Director reported issues involving **lay days and long term-dry storage at Jensen’s** and how to use space there more efficiently.

*\*The* ***League of Women Voters,*** *a nonpartisan organization encourages informed participation in government. The Observer Corps attends and takes notes at government meetings to expand public understanding of public policy and decisions. The notes do not necessarily reflect the views of the League or its members.*