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Comprehensive Plan Sets Course for Haines

By Roger Maynard

"We want Haines people to be excited about the upcoming survey regarding the comprehensive plan," said Barbara Sheinberg at a Haines Planning Commission meeting last month.

A comprehensive plan is a blueprint for how the community wants to grow over the next 20 years and the path to get there. Specific action points are included, as well, and even identifying whose job it is. It's meant to be used. It takes about one year to do an update like this very well.

Much of the work on the comprehensive plan will be done by borough staff. However Sheinberg has been hired to guide and assist the planning commission through the project.

A scientific community survey is the first step in drafting a new comprehensive plan for the Haines Borough. During the March 31 meeting Sheinberg assisted the Haines Borough Planning Commission members and

members of the public with details of questions that should be asked in the survey.

The questions, as drafted, have been given to the McDowell Group, the firm that will be conducting the survey. The McDowell Group, a professional Research and Consulting Firm in Juneau, is working with the questions submitted to ensure they are unbiased and give reliable information. The actual telephone survey is scheduled to begin on April 21 and should take several days to complete. The resulting answers are expected to provide an overview of the community's attitudes and opinions about future development, with an accuracy of about 5 percent.

"We all receive those survey calls," said Sheinberg, "But this call is asking people their opinion about the future of their own community." She explained that this survey is one that folks should be willing to take time for — the survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete.

(Continued on page 4)

Helicopters Coming and Going

A Landowner's Perspective

by Gary Lidholm

Imagine a dozen or more people from all over the world speaking various languages and feeding snacks to the landowner's dogs, who love the attention. This is the way Bud and Shirley Stewart, property owners at 17-1/2 Mile, Haines Highway, described the heliskiers who wait on their property for the

(Continued on page 3)



Photo courtesy of Bud Stewart

A SEABA helicopter from the deck of Bud and Shirley Stewart's home at 17-1/2 Mile.

Haines Borough Assembly Notes

By Roger Maynard

The Haines Borough Assembly meeting on Tuesday, April 12th, 2011 was blissfully short. Mayor Jan Hill and borough manager Mark Earnest were not present because they were in Washington D.C., meeting with our congressional delegation. In a phone call to borough clerk Julie Cozzi, the mayor said their talks have been "very worthwhile." They have had some excellent communication, and the borough requests for funding are reasonable and affordable.

Several items on the agenda were deferred for action until the next meeting on April 26th.

Public Hearings

Ordinance 11-02-255, amending the Port of Haines Terminal Tariff No. 3 to increase demurrage, dockage, and wharfage rates and to allow for special use agreements at the Port Chilkoot Dock lightering facility, was held over for a 4th hearing on the 26th due to a last-minute amendment and questions for the borough manager.

Ordinance 11-03-258, amending Haines Borough Code Section 2.84.160 to add director of public facilities to the list of positions eligible to accrue executive leave in lieu of overtime compensation and to clarify

the accrual start date, was adopted unanimously.

Ordinance 11-03-259, amending Haines Borough Code Title 18 changing relief from the building separation requirement from a variance to a conditional use permit and requiring elevation drawings to be submitted with land use permit applications, was advanced to a second hearing at the assembly meeting on April 26th.

Resolutions

Resolution 11-04-269, authorizing the borough manager to enter into a special docking and moorage services agreement with Haines—Skagway Fast Ferry, LLC for the 2011 summer tourist season, was

postponed to next meeting because the Port of Haines tariff was not yet adopted and because assembly members had questions for the borough manager.

Resolution 11-04-270, in support of establishing water infrastructure set-aside funding in the Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division, Civil Works Program, was adopted unanimously.

The next borough assembly meeting will be on April 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center. A committee of the whole will meet at 5:30, immediately preceding the regular meeting, to discuss the borough budget.

Draft Redistricting Plan

Preliminary map lumps Haines and Skagway in with Juneau North

By Roger Maynard

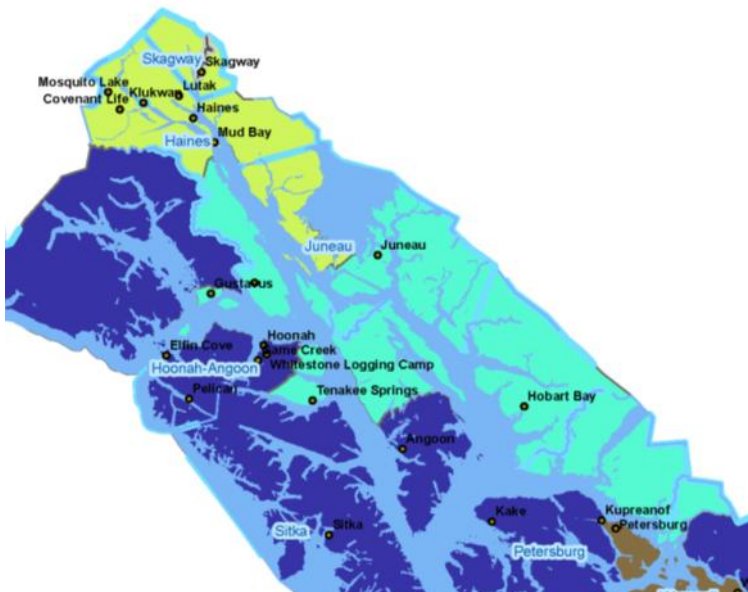
The Alaska Redistricting Board has adopted conceptual maps of State House Districts for every major region of Alaska in preparation for the April 14 deadline by which a draft plan or plans must be adopted. These regional maps are listed on the Alaska Redistricting Board website and available for public download.

Board staff will now begin the technical work of building those regional plans into a draft statewide plan that will be reviewed by the Board on Wednesday, April 13, and ultimately adopted by the end of business Thursday, April 14. Once the draft redistricting plan or plans have been adopted, GIS files and

other data will be posted on the Board's web site.

The board will then have an additional 60 days to adopt a final plan. The upcoming hearing schedule is as follows: Anchorage – April 18, 2-6 p.m. at the Anchorage Legislative Information Of-

fice; Fairbanks – April 19, 2-6 p.m. at Fairbanks City Council Chamber, 2nd floor, city hall, 800 Cushman St.; Juneau – April 20, 1-5 p.m., State Capitol, Room 106. Additional meetings in other communities may be added.



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COMING & GOING —
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

next helicopter to take them to the alpine area for their downhill adventures.

The Stewarts are the owners of acreage with a landing strip at 17 ½ Mile used by both Southeast Alaska Backcountry Adventures (SEABA) and Alaska Heli-Skiing as a heliport and fueling area. Their property is one of three approved landing sites under the borough's heli-skiing ordinance. The others are located at the Haines Airport and at 33 Mile.

Shortly after building their home in 2002, the Stewarts were approached by the two heli-skiing operators about use of the property as a heli-port. Since they had an airstrip for their own use and a clear approach off the highway with a departure path



Photo courtesy of Bud Stewart

Helicopters waiting and refueling at 17-½ Mile.

over the Chilkat River, it was an ideal spot. Although they have no financial interest in the venture, Stewarts saw it as a good economic stimulus for the community and a good way to support late winter-spring business that is normally slack in the borough.

Besides enjoying mingling with the diverse group of skiers and videographers

from all over the world, Bud and Shirley enjoy the offers of help they often receive. As an example, Bud reflected on one of his snow shoveling experiences. "I was trying to get the snow off a flat portion of the roof over the deck when the chopper landed. Several people asked if they could help. I replied that I was doing OK but when I turned

around, the pilot and skiers were there with snow shovels and made short work of it. They have also offered to help put up firewood and they go out of their way to keep the place clean," Bud noted. "They leave no trace."

He also spoke to the noise issue, which he thinks is overplayed. "From my sun room I watch them take off and land and there are no ripples in my coffee cup and the windows don't rattle," he said. "Sometimes I have to ask Shirley if the choppers have come back because I didn't hear them."

The Stewarts say they have enjoyed having the heli-skiers operate from their place and hope they can continue. They consider them an asset to the community and those who contribute a lot to other businesses in town.

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We're Free! Or Not...

By Kevin Reeves

Okay, so by some convoluted reasoning process, instigated by that backward political species inhabiting the Potomac's erstwhile swampland, we get to hold onto "our" cash just a little longer. I suppose we should be grateful for small favors. For, while we can't legally spend what we owe Uncle Sam, we can still hold it in our hands, admire it, maybe cry over it a little before our final parting on April 18th. Because that's when income tax is due this year.

Seems like Abraham Lincoln's 1862 Emancipation Act—a local precursor to the nationwide law that freed all southern slaves—falls on Saturday, the 16th, one day after the traditional income tax deadline. So, since in the D.C. mindset

every holiday must reflect the overarching beneficence of our (*ahem*) representatives, we little people are permitted an emotional weekend bonding with our dwindling bankrolls. Kinda makes you want to engage in a group hug, doesn't it?

You know, it might make our cherubic Washington patrons look a bit less historically challenged if they'd follow suit today and free some more people. Say, folks like us who actually make the country work, by, ah...working for a living? Hmm. Liberation from a crushing tax burden, to coincide with an already established holiday recognizing the human dignity of all men.

What a concept. But don't expect it to go any farther than that.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Because there are a number of folks these days who have no land-line telephone, but only a cell phone, and cell phones are not in the phone book, Sheinberg is giving those folks an opportunity to provide their cell phone numbers to be included in the pool of numbers that could be selected to receive a phone call. These numbers will not be retained for any purpose after the survey is completed.



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HELP WANTED

JOB OPENING: River Adventures has an assistant lunch staff position open for the 2011 summer season. Pay rate DOE. Call 766-2050, ask for Karen. Applications can be picked up at the Duck In Car Wash / River Adventures office on Main St. across from Haines Hitch Up RV Park.

FOR SALE

COLLEGE LITERATURE TEXTBOOK: "Responding to Literature" 5th Edition by Judith A. Stanford. Never used; wrong book sent! \$43 (1/2 what I paid). Call 766-3996

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The 2020 Haines Comprehensive Plan-Get Involved!