



The Enterprise

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Zoning hearing moved to WS

Story by: Jesse Burkhardt

The Klickitat County Board of Commissioners has moved a public hearing on controversial rezoning plans from Goldendale to White Salmon.

The hearing on zoning proposals for the Husum-BZ Corner area, originally set for Aug. 9 in Goldendale, has been rescheduled to Sept. 6. The September hearing will be held at the Pioneer Center in White Salmon.

County officials said they plan a "consolidated" public hearing on Sept. 6 that will consider proposed amendments to the Husum/BZ Corner sub-area plan.

"The purpose of said hearing is to conduct a closed record hearing on an appeal, submitted by Pat Arnold and Friends of the White Salmon, to issuance of a DNS (determination of non-significance) for proposed amendments to the Husum/BZ Corner sub-area plan, zoning text, and zoning map," read a notice signed by Klickitat County Commissioner Chairman Ray Thayer, "and an open record hearing to consider recommendation of the Klickitat County Planning Commission to approve the proposed amendments."

The hearing will be from 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m., in the Pioneer Center's dining room.

Klickitat County Commissioner Don Struck said holding a hearing in White Salmon was the right thing to do.

"We don't get the schedule of upcoming hearings until a couple weeks in advance," Struck explained. "When we saw the hearing was set for Goldendale, the first thing Ray [Thayer] said was, 'We should hold that in White Salmon.' That makes sense. We said we were going to hold public hearings at the Pioneer Center, and we should do that."

Husum resident Beth McCullough, one of those expressing concerns about possible impacts from rezoning in the Husum-BZ area, praised the decision to hold a hearing in White Salmon.

"As a member of the grass roots group concerned with the rezoning of 20,000 acres of Husum/BZ, I was pleasantly surprised when the county moved the hearing to White Salmon and postponed it until Sept. 6," McCullough said. "I appreciate that the hearing will be more accessible to those of us impacted most. It only seems appropriate that commissioners give us the information we are asking for, and a chance for input, before they blindly approve the plan."

McCullough suggested that the plan be sent back to the Husum-BZ Corner Community Council to give residents a chance to make suggestions.

"We need to continue to write, call, and fax the commissioners with our questions and concerns, and to request that this plan be taken off the table and be sent to the community for input," McCullough said. "It would be excellent for the Husum-BZ Community Council to be allowed a [new] opportunity for input."