

Adam Zack

From: marilyn gresseth <marilyngresseth@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Comments re proposed Town of Friday Harbor Annexation
Attachments: FH Proposed Annexation comments.pdf

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Hi Planning Commission,

Attached please find my comments regarding the proposed annexation of San Juan County properties into the Town of Friday Harbor. Let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,
Marilyn Gresseth

Aug 17, 2021

Comments re Friday Harbor Proposed Expansion of the FH Urban Growth Area

My comments are regarding the proposed expansion south of the airport, east of Cattle Pass Road.

I am aware that the Port would like to develop and rent out facilities on the property that they own south of the Airport, and I realize that it would be easier for them to develop if they were to be incorporated into the Town of Friday Harbor. This would give them access to Town water and sewer.

I am concerned about a few things that would come from putting in more parking and/or other airport facilities along with light industry. More facilities would encourage more passengers and as such, more flights. The Port of Friday Harbor Airport is classified as a Regional airport, but even though it has a tower, it is not manned (to my knowledge). Living just east of the proposed expansion, I can tell you that on many days there are aircraft coming and going constantly in a hectic irregular pattern. There are a number of planes that cut corners and veer east instead of gaining their appropriate altitude as listed by the FAA. These planes are not all tourists. Many are flights that San Juan Airlines executes. This is a residential and agricultural area that they are buzzing over low with their unmuffled engines.

Another concern about the annexing and therefore development of this area south of the Airport is its proximity to the shoreline. At one point it is only about 735 feet away and uphill. I noticed in the 401 page "Airport Master Plan 2020" that the airport had commissioned, that the writers of the study also had environmental concerns. I have heard from people that have lived on the Island their whole lives that there used to be shellfish in the areas off Wilks Way and Mill St. That is all gone.

I know that the airport feels like they need more parking, more hangers and more facilities to accommodate their customers, and more industry to bring in revenue. But just like Friday Harbor's Seaport and Washington State Ferries, wait lists and reservations could be a good thing. Of course, San Juan island will grow. It is a primo place to live compared to most places, but it will only be primo if we control the growth.

The airport needs to control the flights that they have before expansion takes place. I am sure that in 1947 when Roy Franklin started his little grass airstrip, stormwater runoff and too many airplanes trying to take off at the same time were not problems. It might be a good idea to think about making another sub airfield like the one that they have out at Roche Harbor instead of increasing the Port's business.

Regards,

Marilyn Gresseth
Properties at
140 Wilks Way &
597 Cattle Pt. Rd.
Friday Harbor, WA 98250