**WASHINGTON PLANNING COMMISSION: SUSTAINABLITY COMMITTEE**

Susan Jahnke (Chair), Mark Picton, Peter Armstrong, Dick Heffernon, Chris Charles

September 16, 4:00 PM Meeting notes by Mark Picton

Attending: Susan Jahnke, Chris Charles, Mark Picton

The discussion centered on creating an identity, a set of goals, and an action plan for a sustainability initiative for Washington, following the recommendations in the new Plan of Conservation and Development, Chapter 5.

We agreed that conservation, or sustaining the environment we depend on, is integral with social well-being and economic vitality. So one of our first jobs is to ensure that we integrate sustainability with other concepts of community planning.

Chris agreed to try a draft of a one page statement of vision and goals which references their integration with other town planning goals.

We agreed to research how to coordinate with the economic development committee, which will probably be engaged in a “branding” exercise for Washington. We agreed that a town organized around a sustainable future might be a great brand. Chris has provided us with the work plan of the EDC so far. Dan Sherr has asked Chris to identify three things that we can work together on with the economic development committee.

Susan and Mark will try extracting items from the POCD Chapter 5 on Sustainability which this committee can turn into an action plan, organized for coordinating with other groups.

We agreed to look at what the planning commission is doing about revising subdivision regulations, and consider them in light of one or more frameworks for sustainable town planning, such as the LEED ND giuidelines. Paul Frank has a draft of changes, and Susan will obtain it.

We discussed the river overlay zoning which the Northwest Conservation District is developing with several area towns, which can help to more scientifically and coherently integrate physical factors with land use regulation.

We discussed the importance of openness in government and community affairs, and Mark agreed to write up meeting notes to circulate.