



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 7, 2010

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Shoreline Master Program Citizen's Groups Begin Work

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, September 7, 2010 – The City's new Shoreline Master Program Citizens Workgroups will kick off their work September 23 at a special session of the Planning Commission. The City created the workgroups to review proposed policy options and identify goals and broad policies for Bainbridge Island's update of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), which guides development on shorelines under the state Shoreline Management Act.

The Workgroups, which include "At Large" members as well as representatives of four stakeholder groups -- Bainbridge Shoreline Homeowners, Bainbridge Citizens, Bainbridge Alliance for Puget Sound, and the Association of Bainbridge Communities -- have been appointed for six months beginning in September. A Citizen Task Force comprised of representatives selected from the three work groups will also meet to share information and ideas. The workgroups will focus on goals, policies and regulations of three major shoreline topics:

1. Native vegetation zones, environmentally sensitive areas, environmental impacts, public access and associated definitions;
2. New and existing development, nonconforming uses and structures, and associated definitions; and
3. Shoreline modification, bulkheads and shoreline armoring, piers, floats and docks, and associated definitions.

"The City of Bainbridge Island has an ongoing commitment to meaningful public input and participation in our long-range planning processes," said Ryan Ericson, Shoreline Planner. "The citizen work groups are one of several methods that the City will be using to ensure public input to the SMP update."

The kickoff meeting agenda includes an overview of the workgroups' goals, a short presentation by Department of Ecology staff on the role of science in developing policy, and break-out sessions on the three topic areas the workgroups will address.

The Planning Commission meeting will take place from 6:30 – 9 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall, 280 Madison Ave. N. Info: www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us. Ryan Ericson, Shoreline Planner, 780-3719, ericson@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us.

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