



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Minutes Planning Commission Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT

Commission Chair Chris Fry
Commission Vice-Chair Heather O'Neil
Commissioner Jim Floyd
Commissioner Marietta Davis
Commissioner Phillip Meeks
Commissioner Donald Sperl

ABSENT

Commissioner John Jensen

3. Acceptance of Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Motion made by Commission Vice-Chair O'Neil, Seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Voting Yea: Commission Chair Fry, Commission Vice-Chair O'Neil, Commissioner Floyd, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Meeks, Commissioner Sperl

4. Approval of Minutes

A. May 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

The May 13, 2025, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion made by Commissioner Davis, Seconded by Commission Vice-Chair O'Neil.

Voting Yea: Commission Chair Fry, Commission Vice-Chair O'Neil, Commissioner Floyd, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Meeks, Commissioner Sperl

5. Public Comments

James Valentine spoke on behalf of himself to bring awareness to a scam email that was sent to his friend regarding fees for a sandwich board. The email looked as if it was sent by the planning commission and asked for funds to be paid through wire transfer. James wanted the Commission to be aware of this and had printed the scam email for the Commissioner's to review.

6. Consent Calendar

None

7. Public Hearing Items

- A. Recommendation to the Borough Assembly regarding an application from American Cruise Lines to lease approximately 22,000 sf of borough tidelands for the purpose of constructing a mooring float at the end of Dock St (temp PID: 01-008-099).

Harbor Master Glo Wollen, spoke in support of American Cruise Lines application and made herself available for any questions.

Vice-Chair O'Neil asked Harbor Master Wollen for clarification on page 17 of the packet showing a letter submitted by ACL with lease agreement options.

Harbor Master Wollen spoke to say this is a proposal letter on page 17 and ACL listed some options. The details would be flushed out at some point, moving forward with the application process would not set in stone the details listed in the letter.

Commissioner Meeks asked if the Borough provides septic services to the dock currently. Harbor Master Wollen said currently we have sewer line to the top of the Petro dock, which is Dock Street, but we do not have a pump out. If we do build this together, a marine pump out would be a number one consideration.

Bob Martin spoke as Harbor Board Chair. In the packet the Harbor Board minutes from the April 3rd meeting were referenced. At that meeting, the Board talked more of a public/private agreement and liked the engineering plan known as concept 7 with a 120 ft float. The Board discussed where the money would come from, but not the lease application.

Bob Martin spoke on behalf of himself in support of the American Cruise Lines application.

Eric Dussault spoke on behalf of American Cruise Lines and appreciates the time and support. He mentioned that ACL received the same email that Mr. Valentine referenced. This is an application we are continuing to move through the process. The letter referenced with the question about management and schedule, are all pieces we can work through in an actual lease agreement. We are open and want to work with the community and make sure the needs of the community are heard and met.

Motion made by Commissioner Floyd, Seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Commissioner Floyd spoke to say he was at the town hall meeting where it was pretty unanimous that people in town are for this. He spoke with the XO of the Elderberry

who says he can navigate it no problem. American Cruise Lines and their patrons are very good to our community. There is an economic benefit for our community.

Commissioner Sperl spoke in support for American Cruise Line application and thinks this will be a good thing for the community as long as the Borough stays involved. What people don't want to see is a chain across the top of the ramp and off limits for 7 months of the year.

Commission Chair Fry spoke to say this seems straightforward and it would be up to the Assembly and Harbor Master to negotiate something for off-season use.

Vice-Chair O'Neil agreed and said she would like to see the off-season use and something more equitable to the Borough for maintenance and repair costs.

Voting Yea: Commission Chair Fry, Commission Vice-Chair O'Neil, Commissioner Floyd, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Meeks, Commissioner Sperl

- B. Consideration of an application from Zach Peeler, dba Peeler's Alaskan Experience, to place a remote sidewalk sign at 104 N Nordic Dr. (PID: 01-007-352).

Zach Peeler, owner of Peeler's Alaskan Experience spoke to say he wants his sign out there to promote going up the Stikine River etc. It will be homemade; it will look good and not be in the way.

Motion made by Commissioner Floyd, Seconded by Commission Vice-Chair O'Neil.

Voting Yea: Commission Chair Fry, Commission Vice-Chair O'Neil, Commissioner Floyd, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Meeks, Commissioner Sperl

8. Non-Agenda Items

- A. Commissioner Comments

None

- B. Staff Comments

Director Cabrera asked the Commission members to please let her know if they get one of the scam emails. There will be agenda items for the July meeting.

- C. Next Meeting is July 8, 2025, at 12:00pm.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:21pm.

Motion made by Commissioner Floyd, Seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Voting Yea: Commission Chair Fry, Commission Vice-Chair O'Neil, Commissioner Floyd, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Meeks, Commissioner Sperl