

Meeting Minutes: Commerce Committee

October 17, 2023 6:30 pm Assembly Chambers

Commerce Committee: Debra Schnabel (Chair), Jerry Lapp and Ben Aultman-Moore

The commerce committee reviews and recommends legislative and policy matters pertaining to ports and harbors, tourism, economic strategies, land and resource, and planning and zoning. This committee maintains a working relationship with empowered and advisory boards, the Haines Chamber of Commerce and the Haines Economic Development Corporation.

In attendance: Assembly members Jerry Lapp, Debra Schnabel, Ben Aultmann-Moore, Public members Gershon Cohen, Derek Poinsette, Sean Gaffney, Diana Lapham, Carol Tuynman, Patty Kermoian, Tammy Piper, Sabrina Stickler, Stacie Evans, Carolyn Weishan

Discussion/Business Conducted:

Meeting minutes of 9/19/23 were accepted without objection

Continued Discussion: How could the community benefit environmentally, culturally and financially from the regulation of extractive industries (minerals, timber, sand and gravel)?

A. Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) with Palmer Project.

By agreement, the Commerce Committee removed development of a GNA from its agenda after discussion of these points:

- The Palmer Project is still in exploratory phase; the final principal owner (responsible party) is unknown
- Public discussion about concerns is timely; but question whether a GNA is the vehicle for community to best address concerns. Town Hall? The community's attempt at education via Mining Forums dissipated
- Stillwater Agreement in Montana did not prevent litigation; GNA was not found to be legally binding. A GNA can build expectations that can't be met.
- Juneau Mining Ordinance governs only municipal lands.
- HEDC is contracted now to research the possible Socio-Economic impacts of the proposed Palmer Project; wait for that report
- There are actions that we can take now to set regulation/expectations in motion: explore severance taxes, terms for bonding, containerization, comment on permit applications

B. Going Forward

By agreement: Commerce Committee to bring issues forward following publication of HEDC study; Commerce Committee to suggest related issues for further research; Severance Taxes to remain on agenda.

4. Public Comment/Input (incorporated in body)

5. Recommendations to Assembly (none)

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm. Minutes submitted by Debra Schnabel