

Adam Zack

From: P KUENTZEL <kp223@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 11:15 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Subject: Support for Agriculture

Dear Members of the SJI Planning Commission:

I would like to request the addition of a new stand-alone section to the Vision dedicated to Agriculture.

I am a Master Gardener who helped install the heritage apple orchard in the Village, a woman who volunteers on a local farm, and a gleaner of fruit through the Lopez Island Family Resource Center.

I feel a stand-alone section to the Vision would recognize our local agricultural heritage and the continued importance of agriculture to the San Juan Islands.

Through the gleaning program I have learned of food insecurity on Lopez and the efforts to make food available to the community. If our farms disappear there will be an increase in food insecurity.

In the late 1800's onward the San Juan Islands were the fruitbasket for the Seattle area. Many young farmers are currently finding their way to Lopez and wish to continue the farming tradition. The Master Gardeners have recognized we are losing our old apple orchards and have grafted heritage apple trees and recently planted them in the village. A Stand-Alone Section to the Vision will expand a visitor's experience by allowing them to learn about the importance our agricultural heritage and to see there is continued support and encouragement for our agricultural future.

I urge you to a Stand-Alone Section to the Vision for the San Juans.

Sincerely,

Pat Kuentzel