

From: judy ross [mailto:judywross@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2010 12:10 PM
To: Ingram, Penny (UTC)
Subject: point roberts trash collection problem

Dear Ms. Ingram,

Obviously, we do not have any special technical information about how trash collection should be managed. However, we have lived in Pt. Roberts for 14 or 15 years, and since you have asked for residents' views, we offer the following:

1. Mr. Wilkowsky did yeoman's service for most of the ten years he was managing this activity in Pt. Roberts. He was a reliable and responsible resource for the community in all we ever heard and in our ordinary dealings with him and his work. Along the way, he repeatedly communicated to the community his belief that a voluntary trash/recycle pick-up program was unlikely to be economically viable in the long run. This seems plausible, but the WUTC can judge that better than the residents of Point Roberts because the WUTC appears to have that data.
2. The recent news that Mr. Gellatly's company has been dissolved by the State for failure to submit paperwork suggests that something is seriously awry with his company. Or does the State routinely dissolve and reinstate companies over minor paperwork issues? It is hard from an outsider's perspective to know whether this is a big deal or a small deal and the fact that it was done December 1 and the WUTC was holding a hearing on December 29 and did not seem to have that information is further puzzling. In any case, Freedom 2000's problems with licensure might suggest that it is not up to the rigors of operating in Pt. Roberts.
3. Most of the people we know in Point Roberts think that trash collection should be mandatory here, i.e., everyone should pay for it, as is the case everywhere else we have ever lived. This view is even held by Canadians who do not participate under the current voluntary system. In Canada (where we have a part-time resident cottage), we pay for trash pickup year round, even though we are mostly not there to participate in it. That's the way municipalities work, in our experience, and people accept it, although they might not go out and advocate for it.
4. It seems to us, after considerable attempt to understand the larger picture of this issue, that the County is the primary roadblock. If the County is unwilling to alter its view from voluntary to mandatory participation, then we think Mr. Wilkowsky's recent proposal for managing the transfer station is an acceptable, though imperfect, solution.

Judith W. Ross
Rolla Edward Park
Pt. Roberts, WA