

ANDERSON ISLAND CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING RE: STATUS OF THE STORE FEBRUARY 5, 2026,
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

This meeting was conducted at the American Legion Community Center and via ZOOM.

Call to Order and Verification of Quorum: Chair Jeremy Kamel called the meeting to order at approximately 6:31 pm. Present both in person and via ZOOM were Jeremy Kamel, Doug Kuehne, Tiffany Waggoner, Bob Bedoll, Vickie Driver, Rick MacPherson, Kristen Kennedy, Aaron Reynolds, and Jan Koslosky. There was a quorum.

Guests: Guests included Jani Hitchens, Liz Grasher (Mayor of Steilacoom), Melissa Littleton from the Executives office and several others.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jeremy began the meeting by stating that the purpose of this special meeting was to discuss how the island could deal with the fallout from the closing of the Island Store.

It was a very freeform meeting, so rather than going through the comments, questions, and discussions in order, I will instead show different topics. I apologize for not catching everyone's name.

Background

The store and its adjacent businesses (Café, gas station, U-Haul rental, Deli, Post Office, meal delivery, LeMay bag sales, etc.) have all closed for an indefinite period of time. Even if someone were to buy the property today and be able to close the deal immediately, it would still be at least months before something could open for business due to required new licensing and insurance.

The store was owned and run by Jeff Gillette and his wife for 30 years, and in 2008 it was sold to Barbara Lake. With the closure, ownership has now reverted back to Jeff Gillette.

Jeff spoke about the store at length and cleared up some of the rumors. He said that the island has supported a store for over 100 years, and at times has had multiple stores (for example, in 1979 there were two stores serving a population of 400). He said that the store closed at the end of January because on January 31st all of the license renewals were due and Barbara simply could not afford it.

Jeff said that there were inspections a month ago of the gas tanks, and they passed the inspections. There was talk of the tanks being old, but the inspector said that these tanks are 33 years old, and he had never seen this type need replacement in less than 50 years. Also, contrary to rumors, Jeff said there were not leaks in the tanks, but that the cap on one of the tanks needed repair and because of this some water got into that one tank. The cap on that tank has now been fixed, but that tank will need to be drained before it can be used again. There is a way to drain the tank and recover the fuel for use, but this has not been done.

Jeff and his family are not interested in running the store at this time, so the property is for sale. There were some questions about splitting up the property into separate businesses, but because the total land is less than 10 acres (it is 5 acres), that is not really a feasible option due to the required permits. However, there are options going forward besides selling the store such as leasing the store, renting the store, starting a co-op, adding post office boxes to rent, etc. and Jeff is willing to consider all options and to do what is best for the community.

Amy Wilburn recommended that people look up the Nordland General Store (<https://www.nordlandgeneralstore.com/>) to consider some options. She knows the attorney who set up this co-op and would be happy to put us in touch.

Fuel Status

There is currently no retail gasoline or diesel fuel available on the island. Gasoline cans are prohibited on the ferry; however, vehicles may carry up to two 5-gallon DOT-approved diesel fuel containers or a DOT-approved slip tank mounted and fastened in the bed of a pickup truck or equivalent vehicle on the ferry.

On January 30th AICAB voted to petition Pierce County to allow gas cans on the ferry. Our representatives are working with Pierce County to try to remedy this. Representative Mari Leavitt had a meeting with the Coast Guard about this, and Melissa Littleton said that the Department of Planning and Public Works was also pursuing this. The county says that this process can take 4-6 months, but later communication with the Coast Guard indicates that it's highly possible that once Pierce County puts the request in that they'll grant an emergency approval to allow 2-gallon gas cans on the ferry. It was mentioned that there are islanders who have medical equipment that requires gas fuel and this could be a problem.

Whites will continue providing propane deliveries to homes on the island. They can also fill portable propane tanks if you leave them at the office (10919 Yoman Rd), fill out the tags, and pick them up at 4pm.

Someone at the meeting also brought up the fact that for about \$16,000, there are gas pumps available that dispense gas when you use a credit card. Perhaps a future owner could replace one or more pumps with one or more of these so that people could get gas without the store being open.

Bonney Lake Towing said they may be able to bring in gas to sell.

Someone also brought up that there are gas siphon kits available that you can use in a pinch. One of these is the Smart Jerry Siphon Pump (\$17.89), and another is the Gasoline Siphon Hose Pump (\$8.99) both available from Amazon.

Post Office

The Post Office (which was the last contract postal station in Washington) is permanently closed. Mail delivery will continue as usual. Stamps and package postage can be ordered online at www.usps.com. Outgoing letters and small packages can be picked up from your mailbox (raise the red flag to notify the mail person). Full postal service is available in Dupont or Steilacoom.

In the future, since we don't have a Post Office, the store could add rental postal box service, which would allow it to again sell stamps and send packages.

Cafe

The Lakeshore Restaurant has expanded to include a limited lunch menu from 12-3pm Monday to Thursday, serving sandwiches, soup, pizza and fountain drinks.

Garbage

The garbage bin at the ferry dock is being replaced with a new bin. Lemay bags will be available to purchase at Whites (10919 Yoman Rd). You can also take your bagged trash to the Pierce County Recycle & Transfer Station (9526 Steffensen Road).

Rides

Transportation for low-income seniors and people with disabilities to medical appointments and grocery shopping through Catholic Community Services, call Bonnie Bernard 9am-2pm at **425-591-5277**. She and her drivers can also pick up prescriptions and groceries.

Meal Delivery

There are currently several options for delivery to the island.

Pierce County has several options .

Check this web site ***<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/489/Home-Delivered-Meals>***.

The contact number for the Pierce County Aging and Disability Resource Center

253-798-4600, or email at ***adrc@piercecountywa.gov***. This contact also can connect you with Mom's Meals as well as with Volunteer Chore Services for assistance with grocery shopping.

Other options include Catholic Community Services at **253-502-2741** on the web at ***ccsww.org***

Grocery Delivery

Emergency Food Network at ***<https://www.efoodnet.org/home-delivery-sign-up/>***

Islander Mandrake Fern Holmquist delivers food boxes. You can contact Mandrake at (253) 290-7172. This service delivers food supplies such as staples, meats, fresh fruits and vegetables.

If you go to the web site to sign up, a message will say that they are not accepting new participants. Ignore this message and sign up anyway as they have opened up space for islanders and you will be accepted.

Store-to-Door Cam Camden and Leland Carlson, (808) 896-7267 or (425)232-0298

Island DeliverE Eric Walker (907)612-0906

Local Deliveries pick up/drop off, grocery, garden, hardware, pet store, UPS, charity

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.