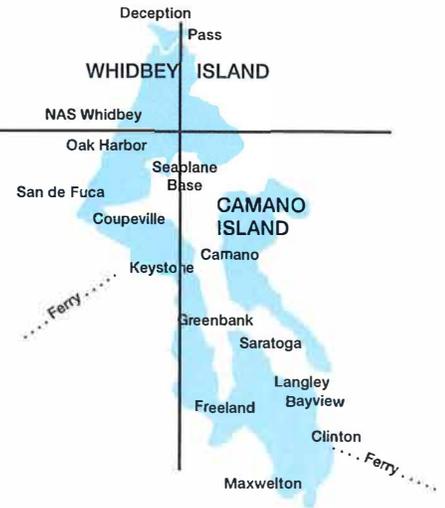


Island County Board of Commissioners

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July 22, 2017

Kate Snider
Whidbey Institute
6449 Old Peitila Rd.
Clinton WA 98236

RE: Whidbey Institute – Meadow Row North Groundbreaking Community Picnic

My work has taken me off island today, though I so wish I could be with you in this wonderful place for this exciting launch. Please know that I am with you in spirit!

My first introduction to this magical property on Old Pietila Road was as a teenager, when my church youth group visited Chinook, with Fritz and Vivienne Hull. It was amazing to me to find such a transformational place in my own backyard. We explored our personal spiritual journey and our responsibility to be stewards of the earth in a way that has influenced my perspective and world view to this day. Thousands of others have enjoyed similar experiences here over the many years as Chinook grew into Whidbey Institute and the impactful programs and opportunities it offers – deepening global, regional and perhaps most importantly personal connections in positive and lasting ways.

Now this groundbreaking promises to increase Whidbey Institute's lodging capacity and accessibility, thus expanding the Institute's ability to promote positive change, and empower people to take courageous action, to nurture each other and the planet we share. The Meadow Row North project plans to utilize local talent, local materials and a lot of heart to create more space for learning and growing at Whidbey Institute. It is good and right to mark this day with celebration and fellowship.

I share your excitement for the new expansion, improving this magical place on Old Pietila Rd, and I look forward to joining you all for the party at the ribbon cutting when the project is completed!

Best wishes,

Helen Price Johnson
Island County Commissioner