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Kingston residents meet finalists for Port Executive Director

KINGSTON—Following a month-long search, on the afternoon of Oct. 24, a steady stream of Kingston area residents had an opportunity to meet and visit with the three finalists vying to fill the vacant position of Executive Director for the Port of Kingston. The Port of Kingston Commissioners hope to make a decision and name the new executive director by the end of the month. In alphabetical order, the three finalists are Greg Englin, Sam Gibboney, and Josh Peters. At one point, the trio had an opportunity to tell the audience about themselves.

“I’ve worked in maritime service almost my whole career,” Englin told the crowd. He went on to say he is presently the Director of Operations and Business Development at the Port of Port Townsend. According to his resume, that position entails overseeing the operation of the Port’s three marinas, 13-acre shipyard, RV Park, airport and other properties and assets. Prior to accepting that position in 2016, Englin was a vice president for Marel Seattle, Inc. in Seattle until that firm moved its operations to its headquarters in Iceland. Before that, he was Manager, Maritime Operation, Seaport Division for the port of Seattle for 14 years. As a volunteer, in 1995 he helped found the not-for-profit SeaShare organization, a seafood industries foodbank. He continues to serve on the SeaShare board as well as being active in the mentoring program at Seattle Pacific University. Englin has a BS in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A resident of

Kitsap County for over 20 years, he spoke fondly about going to Drifters and having chicken strips. He and his wife currently live “just over the bridge” on Bainbridge Island.

“I’m familiar with port infrastructure,” said Ms. Gibboney. Her resume states she has over 25 years of experience working for, and providing services to, local and state government and not-for-profit organizations. From June 2016 through August 2018, she was Executive Director of the Port of Port Townsend, where she was responsible for overseeing strategic and operational management. Prior to coming to Port Townsend, Gibboney worked for San Juan County, where she assumed a variety of positions with increasing responsibilities. Starting in 2013 as Solid Waste Administrator, later that same year she was promoted to Director of Community Development. In 2015 she was named Director of Environmental/ Resources/Deputy Director of Public Works. Among her major accomplishments at both positions was developing a Derelict Vessel Prevention Program that has since become a model throughout Puget Sound. Prior to that, she was President of ISE Consultants in Port Townsend, where she worked with numerous clients, including NOAA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as a number Washington counties and conservancy organizations. She has a Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington and a BS in Civil Engineering from San Diego State University. She and her husband live in Friday Harbor, Washington.

“I’ve always lived on a coast ... and feel I have a good handle on what’s happening in Kingstons,” said Peters. His resume indicates he has made a career of increasingly responsible positions in county and state governments. Peters is presently the District Manager of the Aquatic Resources Division for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, a position he has held since 2014. Prior to that, he served as Senior Planner and Principal Transportation Planner for Jefferson County Department of Public Works (2000-2013) and as Transportation Planning

Supervisor for Road Services Division for King County Department of Transportation. After graduating with a BA in Environmental Studies from the University of Vermont in 1992, he spent the next three years as an Environmental Education Volunteer for the Peace Corps in Honduras. Peters holds a Certified Planner accreditation from the American Institute of Certified Planners and has been an officer of the Washington Chapter. He is a resident of Chimacum, Washington.

All three candidates appeared to be genuinely impressed with Kingston, the Port, and its commissioners and staff. Gibboney appeared to speak for all of the candidates when she said, “What’s next? How can the Port add value to life here?”

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PHOTO CAPTION: From left, the three finalists for the position of Port of Kingston Executive Director are: Josh Peters, Sam Gibboney and Greg Englin.