**LWVSJ Observer Corps\*: Friday Harbor Town Council, November 17, 2022**

The Mayor Proclaimed November 26th as Small Business Saturday as part of Winterfest.

The San Juan Islands **Visitor Bureau** reported on their activities which focus on **off-season promotion and sustainability.** They are also working to broaden the **diversity of our visitors** and had sponsored two writers from the black journalist alliance to visit the islands and a person to evaluate our trails for accessibility. The Visitor’s Bureau offered to **fund a water refill station in downtown Friday Harbor** and will work with the town manager on this.

They held public hearings on budget and revenue. The **2023 budget is due for adoption on December 15.** There was discussion of proving landscape screening for the wastewater plant.

The Public Works department provided a briefing on **engineering and design standards for streets.** The current standards are high, which often results in projects getting variances, so standards are not always enforced for private and public projects. There are no separate standards for alleys, which create problems. The council agreed that they need **to review and revise standards with public input** to be set at an enforceable level and create criteria for variances.

The town manager reported that both large **trees will be cut back 10-15 feet** next week, which will **address safety in time for holiday** activities. The remaining life may be only ten years. The Council decided to plan for how to replace the trees going forward and requested a budget line item. Town Manager met with the County to provide data on waste amounts collected by the town for the **public composting** study. The **Sheriff will make a presentation** to the town on **December 1.** **The Land Bank** will do a presentation to the Council in January on plans to build **trails linking Lindy Park to Beaverton Valley marsh.**

\*The **League of Women Voters,** a nonpartisan organization encourages informed participation in government. The Observer Corps attends and takes notes at government meetings to expand public understanding of public policy and decisions. The notes do not necessarily reflect the views of the League or its members.