



Knox Cellars Native Bee Pollinators

1607 Knox Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

Osmia lignaria
the orchard mason bee

February 03, 2003

Patricia Decker
Waterfront Futures
1801 Roeder Ave.
Bellingham, WA. 98225

Dear Patricia:

I write to share with you my long held dream for a wonderful use for the old feed mill building that stands at the corner of Roeder ave, and what used to be the dock that served the Osage, the mail boat to the San Juans.

Fifteen years ago when I was deeply involved with downtown battles I developed a vision for that wonderful old industrial building. I attempted to purchase it from Georgia Pacific who had not long before bought it to protect their buffer zone. They were not interested in selling. Prior to making my offer to G.P. I had gone through the building extensively and was convinced of its basic soundness and its wonderful potential for my purpose. I am confident that nothing G.P. could have done to it in the intervening years would have compromised its structure however they have certainly diminished its charm and historic value by their boarding up and painting over technique.

I remain interested in purchasing that building and developing it for my original purpose, a community market building. The heavy frame construction, the open bays to the street before it, the considerable parking in the triangular property behind, the across the street access to the waterfront all point to it being a perfect entry point to the G.P. property that you are planning for now. The building has an amazing basement with huge circular concrete columns that would make a great tavern or torture chamber depending on your tastes. Mine tend towards the tavern. There is a huge timbered main floor and a second story gallery, all of heavy timber construction as I recall. There is even a room way up high that would make a heck of an apartment.

With lots of money and imagination that old building could be one of the keystones to a waterfront renaissance. If you can get access to it I would love to tour it with you, this time looking to an opportunity to buying it and converting it to the community treasure that it could become. Above all, don't let G.P. demolish it. It can truly be a great asset to the waterfront.

I would like the opportunity to meet with you to share more fully my vision for its use.

Good luck in your exciting new job.


Brian L. Griffin