

City of Maple Ridge
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, held in the Blaney Room,
at Maple Ridge Municipal Hall on April 5, 2018 at 7:09 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Craig Speirs	City of Maple Ridge
Margaret Daskis, Chair	Member at Large
Stephanie James, Vice-Chair	Agricultural Sector
Al Kozak	Agricultural Sector
Bill Hardy	Member at Large
Candace Gordon	Haney Farmers Market Society
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture
David Kaplan	Member at Large
Ian Brooks	Member at Large
Ryan Murphy	Agricultural Sector

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Grochowich	Staff Liaison, Planning Department
Amanda Allen	Committee Clerk

REGRETS

Josef Hans Lara	Economic Development Committee Representative
Kamelli Mark	Agricultural Land Commission
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

R/2018-012

It was moved and seconded

That the April 5, 2018 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

R/2018-013

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting dated March 1, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. **DELEGATIONS**

4.1. **Country Fest Grant Request**

- Gail Szostek

Ms. Szostek presented a request for funding from the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Agricultural Association. The Backyard Farming program is a small venue at the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Country Fest that runs July 28-29, 2018. The Backyard Farming program promotes local agriculture and how to grow food in a backyard.

R/2018-014

It was moved and seconded

That the grant request from the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Agricultural Association in the amount of \$1,200 for the 2018 Backyard Farming program be approved.

CARRIED

4.2. **City of Maple Ridge Farm Protection Development Permit Guidelines**

- Lisa Zosiak, Planner 2, City of Maple Ridge

The Planner 2 gave a presentation on the Farm Protection Development Permit guidelines and outlined several key changes in the revised guidelines. The Planner 2 reported that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission have reviewed and provided feedback on the draft guidelines. There was discussion on the farm protection development permit guidelines, restrictive covenants and roadside signage and the Planner 2 answered questions from the committee.

Note: Councillor Speirs joined the meeting at 7:46 pm.
David Kaplan left the meeting at 7:49 pm.

4.3. **City of Maple Ridge Agricultural Setback Update**

- Chee Chan, Planner 1, City of Maple Ridge

The Planner 1 gave an update on the proposed bylaw revisions to the interior side yard setbacks for buildings and structures for agricultural use in residential zones where agricultural use is permitted. The Planner 1 proposed a revision that would permit a less restrictive setback for small scale livestock and poultry operations. There was discussion on what an appropriate size and scale of a small scale livestock and poultry operation could be.

R/2018-015

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee support the modification to the proposed setbacks to allow for buildings and structures up to 100 square metres for small scale livestock and poultry operations be 7.5 metres.

CARRIED

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Farm Tour 2018

Discussion was held on organizing a Farm Tour in July 2018 and inviting members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, Maple Ridge Council and Pitt Meadows Council to participate. Bill Hardy will work with the Education subcommittee to plan the event, identify possible tour sites and will bring forward a tour itinerary at a future meeting.

5.2. AAC Terms of Reference

Bill Hardy recommended a group discussion to review the current Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference against the Ministry of Agriculture model terms of reference. Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2018 at 4:00pm in the Blaney Room.

R/2018-016

It was moved and seconded

That a subcommittee be formed consisting of Councillor Speirs, Bill Hardy, Margaret Daskis, Al Kozak, Ryan Murphy, Ian Brooks, and Stephanie James to review the Terms of Reference for the Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

5.3. Conference and Workshop Updates

5.3.1. Innovations in Emerging Cities Forum

The Council liaison provided a report on the Forum, the event speakers, and the topics discussed at the Forum.

5.3.2. World Agri-Tech Conference

The Chair reported on the World Agri-Tech Conference, an internationally attended event. The Chair shared information on vertical farming and new and upcoming technologies helping farmers gather data to grow more efficiently.

5.3.3. Future Food Tech Conference

The Chair shared information gathered from the Future Food Tech Conference and the new opportunities, processes and collaboration happening internationally.

5.3.4. Green Cities Conference

Bill Hardy circulated the Green Cities Country Report and shared highlights and world trends from the report and conference.

5.3.5. Ministry of Agriculture AAC Workshop

Chris Zabek reported that the Workshop notes should be available for distribution shortly.

6. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

6.1. **Education**

Chris Zabek noted the possibility of inviting Clayton Botkin to participate at a future educational event on the health of small scale poultry flocks.

Note: Item 6.4 was dealt with following item 6.1

6.2. **Backyard Chickens**

6.2.1. **Public Consultation**

Stephanie James provided an update on the direction of the proposed backyard chicken expansion program and described the proposed backyard chicken public consultation program anticipated for Summer 2018. Ms. James indicated that discussions are on-going on the educational components of the program as well as the recommended biosecurity and animal welfare practices.

R/2018-017

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee support the proposed public consultation program for backyard chickens.

CARRIED

6.3. **Golden Harvest**

6.3.1. **Budget, Date and Venue**

Discussion was held on holding the Golden Harvest event on October 12, 2018 at the ACT Arts Centre

R/2018-018

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve a total budget for Golden Harvest 2018 to be a maximum of \$10,500, and that the event be held at the ACT on October 12, 2018.

CARRIED

6.3.2. **Hiring Coordinator**

The Staff liaison advised that the coordinator from Golden Harvest 2017 is unavailable for Golden Harvest 2018. Discussion was held on hiring a coordinator for the event.

R/2018-019

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve a maximum budget of \$3000.00 for an event coordinator for Golden Harvest 2018 and that the staff liaison hire the event coordinator.

CARRIED

6.4. Food Distribution

The draft Final Report has been received from the Consultant and has been distributed to the Subcommittee for review.

6.5. Food Garden

Stephanie James reported that the entry forms are ready and that the Food Garden posters will be delivered among the community shortly. The Staff liaison will electronically circulate the Food Garden entry form to members and offered to print copies for any member who request hardcopies.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. ROUNDTABLE

Ryan Murphy reported on getting ready for the season and on-going drainage work on the farms.

Bill Hardy shared highlights of his interviews with Australian staff in the garden and food industries while in Melbourne for the Green Cities Conference.

Al Kozak shared positive news of his farm succession planning process through listing his farm with the Young Agrarians and interviewing people interested in co-farming.

Chris Zabek reported that Health Canada will soon require antibiotics for veterinary use to be available by prescription only.

Councillor Speirs shared his adventures of building an experimental cottonwood garden bed.

Stephanie James reported that the minutes from the AAC meetings will be posted shortly to the website as members of the community are looking to follow AAC developments.

Amanda Grochowich advised of the new email address created for agricultural enquiries and projects and encouraged members to share agriculture@mapleridge.ca with the community.

9. QUESTION PERIOD

Andrew Poznar commented on the restrictive covenant component of the Farm Protection Development Permit guidelines. Mr. Poznar shared feedback on the proposed reduced setbacks for smaller buildings and structures for agricultural use in residential zones where agricultural use is permitted.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 9:31 pm



M. Daskis, Chair

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