

District 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 the Maple Ridge Municipal Hall, 11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, British Columbia, on Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Ken Stewart	Council Liaison, Maple Ridge
Candace Gordon, Chair	Member at Large
Steve Pelton	Economic Advisory Commission
Steve Wynnyk	Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Matt Buchanan	Haney Farmer's Market
Christian Cowley, Vice-Chair	Member at Large
Margaret Daskis	Maple Ridge Rep to the Metro Vancouver AAC
Kerry Davison	Non-Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Matthew Laity	Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Councillor Linda King	Council Liaison, Maple Ridge
Heather Laity	Non-Food Producing Agricultural Sector

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGRETS

Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Jo Anne ten Brink	Community at Large
Tony Pellett	Agricultural Land Commission
Kevin Davison	Maple Ridge Rep to the Metro Vancouver AAC

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Diana Hall	Staff Liaison
Lynn Marchand	Committee Clerk

1. *Call to Order & Introductions*

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

2. *Adoption of the Agenda*

Motion was moved and seconded

That the Agenda dated October 23, 2008 be adopted with the following additions:

- 5.2 *Agricultural Advisory Committee Business Plan 2009 - 2011; Grant Criteria*
- 5.3 *Memorial; Tim Wittenberg*

- 6.1 *Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Support for the UBC Farm*
- 6.2 *Invitation from Pitt Meadows Agricultural Committee*

CARRIED

3. *Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Regular Meeting*

Motion was moved and seconded

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee of September 25, 2008 be adopted with the following changes:

On page 3, under the Roundtable discussion of Candace Gordon, change "Steve Pelton" to "Steve Wynnyk".

On page 4, under the Roundtable discussion of Margaret Daskis, after October 17th, 2008 add ", although she is unable to attend." Delete the sentence, "She is unable to attend and was seeking an alternate to attend on her behalf."

On Page 5, change "Brookfield" to "Brook Field"

CARRIED

4. *Delegations & Presentations*

5. *Current and Unfinished Business*

5.1 *AG Plan update*

Diana Hall circulated a list of the names suggested by the Committee members to be interviewed by Agro-Environmental. Candace Gordon gave an update on the current status of the AG Plan and advised that the interviews will commence next week. The first draft will be available at the November meeting and the consultants will be attending to accept questions from the members. Ms. Gordon further advised that the first consultation piece is scheduled for December 3rd.

Discussion took place regarding the suggested individuals and whether any person was missed. It was suggested to include a cranberry grower in the Maple Ridge region.

5.2 *Agricultural Advisory Committee Business Plan 2009 - 2011; Grant Criteria*

Diana Hall circulated a draft Agricultural Advisory Committee Business Plan 2009 - 2011. Candace Gordon referred to the previous meeting's discussion regarding the distribution of the allocated funds and/or grants. She referred to the Social Planning Advisory Committee Business Plan and gave examples of programs that Committee supports and/or provides funds for.

Diana Hall advised that she spoke to the Manager of Legislative Services who confirmed that it is acceptable within the Committee's mandate to fund other organizations but need to advise Council.

Ms. Gordon indicated the bylaw states that:

5.3 the committee may

(b) support projects that promote local agriculture;

Candace Gordon gave an overview of the Business Plan 2009 – 2011. She advised that it may be beneficial to arrange for a possible presentation/display board for the Agricultural Advisory Committee to promote the accomplishments and goals to the general public. Candace Gordon suggested that some money be spent for public education, community initiatives, Committee support (to pay for conferences or mileage etc.) and good quality photos that features Maple Ridge.

Discussion took place amongst the Committee which included the following:

- the possibility of planting 10 acres of vegetables to actually show the public what they do;
- whether the AG Plan requires completion prior to any additional plans being arranged; it was concluded that the Committee will choose what would be most suitable after the AG plan is complete;
- that planting of a garden is already being considered but should be in partnership with the District; it was suggested that if such a project takes place that the Committee could donate money towards it;
- using the existing information on the website to inform the public; expanding the website with further information;
- if a community garden was built to consider producing for the Farmer's Market;
- place signs at the entrance of the community showing the products that are grown and produced locally;
- form a small sub-committee to establish possible ideas, particularly about public knowledge; then importance of showing presence as an Agricultural Advisory Committee, but that public education should be one of the points that money should be spent on.

Kerry Davison left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Further discussion took place regarding possible tours of small lots in Agassiz and other areas hosting the "Taste of" events. It was suggested to possibly initiate someone in the community to feature local Maple Ridge products.

Motion was moved and seconded

To strike an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss how the funding may be utilized for the coming year. Recommendations are to be made which will be voted on by the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

The Ad Hoc Committee to discuss possible ideas for the funding consists of: Margaret Daskis, Linda King, Matt Buchanan and Chris Zabek.

ACTION ITEM: Any thoughts or suggestions on the matter are to be emailed to Diana Hall, whereupon she will provide them to the Ad Hoc Committee for their first meeting. The date for the meeting will be set with agreement of that Ad Hoc Committee.

Grant Criteria

Grant Criteria will be deferred until possible funding ideas are recommended.

5.3 Memorial; Tim Wittenberg

Candace Gordon advised of the previous discussions that took place regarding the possible Trans Canada Trail marker in memory of Tim Wittenberg. It was initially thought to be agreed upon, however, at the previous meeting further discussion took place regarding whether it was appropriate spending the allocated funds for the Committee. Diana Hall advised that the cost of the marker is \$50 which would put his name on the trail.

Motion was moved and seconded

To purchase a memorial marker on the Trans Canada Trail in memory of Tim Wittenberg from the Agricultural Advisory Committee's allocated funds

CARRIED

6. New Business

6.1 Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Support for the UBC Farm

Linda King gave an overview of the UBC Farm, their initiatives and plans. A memo from Daryl Arnold, Chair, Agricultural Advisory Committee in Metro Vancouver was circulated. Ms. King suggested that the Committee provide a letter of support for the UBC Farm for their current size and location.

Motion was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee write a letter of support for the UBC Farm for its current size and location

CARRIED

ACTION ITEM: Diana Hall will forward the recommendation to Council to seek their endorsement, as the Agricultural Advisory Committee feels it is important.

6.2 Invitation from Pitt Meadows Agricultural Committee

Candace Gordon advised that Kim Grout from the Pitt Meadows Agricultural Committee has extended an invitation to have a joint meeting with their Committee on December 11th, 2008 from 10 a.m. until 12:00 noon, with a luncheon to follow. The meeting will be held at the Pitt Meadows City Hall.

ACTION ITEM: Committee clerk to include on the November Agenda to enable discussion of any possible issues to discuss at the December joint meeting.

Ms. Gordon further advised that the Pitt Meadows Agricultural Advisory Committee is having an open house on December 10th, specifically on the issues of limiting home plate size on farm properties.

ACTION ITEM: Diana Hall is to provide the Committee members, via email, the public viewing document once it is available.

7. Committee Reports

8. Correspondence

9. Roundtable

Steve Pelton

Mr. Pelton gave an update on the theft situation that occurred previously on his property and the problems that continue regarding the incident. Mr. Pelton further advised of the PRT emergency meeting he attended which ultimately closed down the Pelton Nursery. Mr. Pelton gave an overview of the history and events leading to the current situation.

Christian Cowley

Mr. Cowley advised of his attendance of the farm tour in the District of Kent and circulated "Growing Together". He gave an overview of the farms visited and indicated it was an excellent tour.

Chris Zabek

Mr. Zabek advised of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Regional Workshop being put on in February 2009 and provided examples of previous workshops. He will advise the Committee once the date has been confirmed.

Matthew Laity

Matthew Laity advised of the current drainage situation and the inability to drain anywhere. He advised of a further collapse of the cow tunnel and circulated photographs. Mr. Laity indicated it was the fault of the GVRD and that the preload was currently being removed. Mr. Laity further advised that he has approached the District regarding the gateway opposite the project site which will not work and feels there is a definite safety issue. The approximate cost is \$10,000 for a new gateway, but he is hopeful it will be covered.

Heather Laity

Heather Laity advised that by invitation Craig Speirs attended the farm to experience first hand the situation. She further advised how the Hampton's fence is visibly rolling due to the extreme pressure and how Mr. Hampton is extremely ill and not expected to return home from the hospital. In her opinion, the Hampton's are too ill to put up a fight and feels they are being taken advantage of. Ms. Laity referred to a newspaper article referencing the plans of Abernethy Way and expressed her frustration regarding the traffic and exhaust problems. Ms. Laity wanted to know if there way anything the District could do to help.

Ken Stewart explained the expropriation process to the Committee and indicated that the court costs are not covered but legal fees are.

Matt Buchanan

Mr. Buchanan advised that the Haney Farmer's Market will be held indoors on November 15th and December 6th at the Albion Fair Grounds, as the outdoor season is finished.

Margaret Daskis

Margaret Daskis advised that she did not attend the Metro Vancouver AAC meeting but will provide the information from that meeting at the November meeting.

Steve Wynnyk

Steve Wynnyk advised of his current corn harvesting situation.

Linda King

Nothing to report.

Ken Stewart

Nothing to report.

10. Public Questions & Answers

- 11. Next Meeting -** Thursday, November 27, 2008
Agenda Deadline - Wednesday, November 12, 2008

12. Adjournment – 9:15 pm.

Chairperson

/lm