

District of Maple Ridge

*AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING*

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, held at Maple Ridge Municipal Hall, on Thursday, September 25, 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
Kevin Davison	Maple Ridge Rep to the Metro Vancouver AAC
Kerry Davison	Non-Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Tony Pellett	Agricultural Land Commission
Matthew Laity	Food Producing Agricultural Sector

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGRETS

Heather Laity	Non-Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Jo Anne ten Brink	Community at Large
Councillor Linda King	Council Liaison, Maple Ridge

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Diana Hall	Staff Liaison
Lynn Marchand	Committee Clerk

GUESTS

Eilleen Dwillies	Haney Farmer's Market, Secretary
Elke Knechtel	Haney Farmer's Market, Chair

1. *Call to Order & Introductions*

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. *Adoption of the Agenda*

Motion was moved and seconded

That the Agenda dated September 25, 2008 be adopted as circulated

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 June 26, 2008 be adopted

CARRIED

Motion was moved and seconded

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee of August 28, 2008 be adopted

CARRIED

4. Delegations & Presentations

4.1 Farmer's Market – Eileen Dwillies and Elke Knetchtel

Eileen Dwillies gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Haney Farmer's Market which runs every Saturday from May 10, 2008 through October 11, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The website for the Market is www.haneyfarmersmarket.org. Special indoor markets will be available during the months of November and December.

Elke Knetchtel gave an overview of the funding and expenses and the desire to obtain assets in the future. She advised how the market is a non-profit for profit organization or social enterprise.

5. Current and Unfinished Business

5.1 AG Plan update

Diana Hall advised that the Census information for Maple Ridge has been received. Ms. Hall informed that Mr. Darrell Zbeetnoff of Agro-Environmental would like, from each Committee member, the names of three individuals who should be considered for an interview on valuable agricultural issues and/or farming. The names given should be with the consent of the individual to be

interviewed and are to be forwarded to Diana Hall. Mr. Zbeetnoff would like to have the interviews completed in the month of October and have the first draft of the report to the Committee by mid-November. Ms. Hall further advised that a workshop will be held in the first week of December.

5.2 Grant Criteria

Diana Hall circulated to the Committee a document titled "Grant Criteria". Christian Cowley gave an overview of the criteria.

Councillor Stewart sought clarification of the \$10,000 allocation funds and how that funding is to be distributed or if the money allocated is for use by the Committee. Candace Gordon suggested that clarification of this issue be made prior to continuing on the grant criteria.

ACTION ITEM: Diana Hall and/or Candace Gordon will seek clarification of how the \$10,000 allocation funds are to be distributed and bring the issue back to a subsequent meeting.

It was discussed amongst the Committee that groups seeking funding should present to the Committee as a delegation in order to seek alternative funding from other sources.

6. New Business

7. Committee Reports

8. Correspondence

- 8.1 Newspaper article – *The Globe and Mail*, September 18, 2008
"Buy your rainbow chard and eggplants at work"

9. Roundtable

Candace Gordon

Candace Gordon advised that Steve Pelton, Diana Hall, Chris Zabek and herself attended the Chilliwack Agricultural Tour and gave an overview of the tour. Ms. Gordon circulated various pamphlets from the farm tour which were perused by the Committee.

Tony Pellett

Tony Pellett advised that this was the first year he missed the Chilliwack Agricultural Tour and in the past smaller farms have been included, as opposed to such large operations.

Chris Zebek

Chris Zebek suggested possibly touring Aggasiz farms next year, specifically the "Taste Aggasiz" event.

Ken Stewart

Councillor Ken Stewart suggested looking at direct sales as a source to sell limited quantities of items and suggested contacting Dan Ireland.

Margaret Daskis

Margaret Daskis advised that the next Metro Vancouver AAC meeting is a joint meeting and scheduled for October 17th, 2008. She is unable to attend and was seeking an alternate to attend on her behalf.

Matt Buchanan

Matt Buchanan reported that the Farmer's Market attendance and variety of product has increased.

Kerry Davison

Kerry Davison advised of concerns from the previous August 28th meeting and the issues surrounding the guest who appeared at that meeting. Candace Gordon advised that a new item on the Agenda has been added to accommodate questions and answers from the public, so that the matters can be addressed during the appropriate time.

Kevin Davison

Kevin Davison indicated he would like an update on Translink and the plans for 128th, as that area requires a lane to accommodate farm equipment.

Councillor Stewart gave an overview of the improvements, the proposed variations and how currently the road is Municipal but may become a Regional road which would save the Municipality 50% as the costs would be shared with Translink.

Candace Gordon suggested sending a formal request to Council for information on what the future plans are and the timing of the improvements to 128th with regards to the bridge opening.

ACTION ITEM: A memo to Council to be prepared by Candace Gordon and/or Diana Hall indicating the interest in the plans and improvements to 128th, the time line in connection with the bridge opening and the concern of the traffic on that road, particularly to farm traffic.

Matthew Laity arrived at 8:45 p.m.

Matthew Laity

Matthew Laity advised of a fourth revision to the plans for the drainage on the property and how this version is acceptable if Translink agrees to go forward with it. Mr. Laity was seeking support from the Committee to Translink that this fourth version of the plans go forward.

Motion was moved and seconded

That a request be sent to the Engineering Department for support of the fourth revision to the plan for the drainage of the Brookfield Farm, with notification to Translink

CARRIED

Steve Pelton

Steven Pelton advised that on Wednesday, September 17th his greenhouse was broken into by what is believed to be, professional thieves. Mr. Pelton advised that the event appeared to be a planned and gave an overview of the extent of his loss.

Christian Cowley

Mr. Cowley advised that he recently attended the *BC Food Systems Network* workshop in Sorrento where many interesting issues were discussed.

Candace Gordon advised that she is enquiring into the memorial on the Trans Canada Trail for Tim Wittenberg which was previously discussed and agreed upon on the last meeting. Diana Hall suggested Timberline Ranch as a possible memorial as his obituary indicated any donations and such to be sent to the Ranch, . Matt Buchanan suggested the allocation of the \$10,000 be clarified before any commitment, as the funds may not be able to be utilized for such a memorial.

ACTION ITEM: Committee Clerk to put the memorial discussion on the October 23rd Agenda.

10. Public Questions & Answers

11. Next Meeting - Thursday, October 23, 2008
Agenda Deadline - Wednesday, October 8, 2008

12. Adjournment – 9:09 pm.

Chairperson

/lm