

District of Maple Ridge

**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, held in the Conference Room at the Maple Ridge Act, Haney Place, Maple Ridge, British Columbia, on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Candace Gordon, Chair	Community at Large
Councillor Cheryl Ashlie	Council Liaison, Maple Ridge
Christian Cowley, Co-Chair	Community at Large
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Margaret Daskis	Maple Ridge Rep to the Metro Vancouver AAC
Tony Pellett	Agricultural Land Commission
Steve Pelton	Economic Advisory Commission
Steve Wynnyk	Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Kerry Davison	Non-Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Matthew Laity	Food Producing Agricultural Sector

GUESTS

Darrell Zbeetnoff	ZBeetnoff Agro-Environmental Consulting
Mike McPhee	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGRETS

Councillor Linda King	Council Liaison, Maple Ridge
Heather Laity	Non-Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Jo Anne ten Brink	Community at Large
Matt Buchanan	Haney Farmer's Market
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Diana Hall	Staff Liaison, Planning Department
Jane Pickering	Planning Department

1. *Call to Order & Introductions*

There being a quorum present, the Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

2. *Adoption of the Agenda*

S09-001 Motion was moved and seconded

That the Agenda dated September 24, 2009 be adopted with the following change:

The date be changed to the correct date of September 10

CARRIED

3. Reporting back from July 27 Open House

- Issues identified
- Responses were thoughtful
- Shopping in Albion vs Agriculture (Albion Flats)
- Approximately 2/3 supported the Plan and 1/3 was opposed.
- Soil capability and parcel size were identified as constraints to successful agriculture among non supporters
- Concern with the statement “purchase agricultural lands” would create tax burden
- Actions needed to address concerns
- *More explanation required.*
- Cross commodity farmers group could assist in changing public perception about agricultural possibilities’.
- Additions to the Plan
- More examples added could improve clarity (but could also limit the scope of perception)
- Who does what? What agencies could feasibly take on tasks identified in Plan- will be included in implementation report
- Performance indicators
- Still need to address – purchase issue more explanation needed.
- Getting land into production should be a greater priority
- Leasing opportunities
- Identify ALR lands owned by the Municipality that could be made available for this purpose.

Bottom line: Farming needs to be profitable in order to be viable – the Plan should facilitate profitable business and not interfere.

12. Adjournment – 7:30 pm

Chair

/tc