

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, July 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Christian Cowley, Co Vice-Chair	Community at Large
Councillor Cheryl Ashlie	Council Liaison, Maple Ridge
Councillor Linda King	Council Liaison, Maple Ridge
Candace Gordon, Chair	Community at Large
Steve Wynnyk	Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Paula Panek, Co Vice-Chair	Haney Farmer's Market
Margaret Daskis	Maple Ridge Rep to the Metro Vancouver AAC
Steve Pelton	Economic Advisory Commission
Matthew Laity	Food Producing Agricultural Sector

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Paul Gill	
Diana Hall	Staff Liaison, Planning Department
Tracy Camire	Committee Clerk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGRETS

Tony Pellett	Agricultural Land Commission
Kevin Davison	Maple Ridge Rep to the Metro Vancouver AAC
Kerry Davison	Non-Food Producing Agricultural Sector
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Jo Anne ten Brink	Community at Large
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands

1. Call to Order & Introductions

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

R10-024 Motion was moved and seconded

That the Agenda dated July 15, 2010 be adopted with the following amendments

- Items 5.1 through to Items 5.3 – will be deferred to the September 2010 meeting.
- Add Item 6.1 Business Planning

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

R10-025 Motion was moved and seconded

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee of May 27, 2010 adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Delegations & Presentations

Please note that Matthew Laity joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

4.1 Agricultural Plan Discussion – Paul Gill

Paul Gill, General Manager of Corporate and Financial Services, gave a verbal report on Development Cost Charges and Incremental Tax Credits.

Please note that Councillor Speirs joined the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Candace Gordon confirmed that the Committee is currently working on an implementation plan for the goals that were identified in the Agricultural Plan.

Councilor Ashlie requested a written presentation of the legislative requirements, a description of Development Cost Charge.

Candace Gordon advised the Committee that there will be a Business Plan review in September and this could be part of the discussion at that meeting.

Candace Gordon thanked Paul Gill for his time and the information that he provided the committee.

4.2 Steve Pelton Presentation

Steve Pelton reviewed the “Agriculture Opportunity to Grow, Pelton Employment Lands Presentation” that highlighted; history of the Pelton land along with the proposal to develop an advanced manufacturing and industrial park on 152 acres with the Committee.

The Committee discussed Mr. Pelton’s proposal.

Steve Pelton confirmed that this proposal will be reviewed by the Agricultural Land Commission and then Maple Ridge Council for a second time.

Please note that Steve Pelton left the meeting at 8:14 p.m. due to conflict of interest.

Candace Gordon reviewed the mandate of the Committee.

The Committee discussed expressing the Committee's view to the Agricultural Land Commission.

R10-026 Motion was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee does not support the Pelton application on the grounds that it is not consistent with the objectives of the Committee to promote local agriculture.

CARRIED

Opposed; Councillor Ashlie, Margaret Daskis, Steve Wynnyk

Councillor Ashlie requested that a cover sheet be included in the report to Council including the issues discussed and finding a middle ground. Candace Gordon asked that Committee members email the Staff Liaison with their feedback to be included in the report to Council.

5. Current and Unfinished Business – deferred to the September 2010 meeting.

- 5.1 *Farmland Protection Development Permit Area Guidelines*
- 5.2 *Farmland Impact Assessment Guidelines*
- 5.3 *The Policy for Considering Land Use Applications within the Agricultural Land Reserve*

6. New Business

6.1 *Business Plan*

Candace Gordon advised the Committee that there will be a Business Planning meeting in September to review an action plan for next year.

ACTION ITEM: Committee Clerk to provide some dates for a Business Planning Session

7. Committee Reports

- 7.1 *Agricultural Plan - Implementation Subcommittee – update - deferred*
- 7.2 *Golden Harvest Event - deferred*

8. Correspondence

9. Roundtable

Matthew Laity

Matthew noted that his farm has been making hay like crazy and it's been good.

Steve Wynnyk

Steve noted that he has had a disastrous May and June as it was very cold and now it's gone to the other extreme and it's affecting the crops. Steve stressed that the weather has been tough on crops.

Councillor King

Councillor King noted that she has seen Matthew Laity doing a great job of driving his machinery.

Christian Cowley

Christian noted that Metro Vancouver has awarded an Agricultural Awareness Grant to CEED Centre for the Connex Program at Aldridge Acres. Christian provided an update on the Community Garden. Christian also thanked the Committee for their support on the grant application.

Margaret Daskis

Margaret provided an update on the food industry and her consulting work. Margaret noted that if anyone is interested in drying there is a great interest; especially for herbs and spices and vegetables.

10. Public Questions and Answers

Maria Reynolds

Ms. Reynolds asked if the Committee looked at the percentage of land that was presented as agricultural in proportion to what was going to be industrial.

Candace Gordon advised that there were comments about it and noted that about 50 acres would remain in the Agricultural Land Reserve and the request is to removed 152 acres.

Diana Williams

Ms. Williams asked if anyone knows what the lands that would remain in the Agricultural Land Reserve would be used for?

The Committee confirmed that Mr. Pelton did not specify what these lands would be used for.

Stuart Pledge

Mr. Pledge asked if the Committees Terms of Reference are posted on the website?

Candace Gordon confirmed that the Terms of Reference are included in the Committee's Bylaw.

Bernice Rolls

Ms. Rolls commended that the trend seems to be to t more labour intensive farming not necessarily to what was presented tonight. Ms. Rolls asked why there isn't more emphasis on agricultural interest on those lands. Ms. Rolls also noted that she doesn't have a problem with the food processing terminal but is there a need to have it on agricultural land?

Christian Cowley confirmed that a food processing terminal is not a permitted activity on land within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Maria Raynolds

Ms. Raynolds noted that there has been a considerable loss of forest in BC and has the Committee considered if it could become a business again; referring to the previous type of business on the Pelton's land.

Candace Gordon advised that it is not general practice of this committee to determine what certain farmer's should be farming.

- 11. Next Meeting -** Thursday, September 23, 2010
7:00 p.m. Blaney Room, Maple Ridge Municipal Hall
- Agenda Deadline -** Wednesday, September 8, 2010
- 12. Adjournment -** **9:26 pm**

Chair

/tc