



City of Maple Ridge
Agricultural Advisory Committee
MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, held in the Blaney Room, at Maple Ridge City Hall on January 30, 2020 at 7:08 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Gordy Robson	Council Liaison
Andrew Pozsar	Member at Large
Candace Gordon	Haney Farmers Market Society Representative
Carla Schiller, Vice Chair	Member at Large
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board Representative
Pascale Shaw	Member at Large
Angela Boss	Ministry of Agriculture (Non-voting member)
Shannon Lambie	Agriculture Land Commission (Non-voting member)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Grochowich	Staff Liaison / Planning Department
Erin Mark	Committee Clerk

GUESTS

Dr. Bob Masse	
Agneta Eikelenboom	President of North Fraser Bee Club
Grace Cockle	Metro Vancouver, Air Quality and Climate Change
Julie Saxton	Metro Vancouver, Air Quality Bylaw and Regulation Development

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Bill Hardy, Chair	Member at Large
Michelle Franklin	Member at Large

Note: Councillor Robson chaired the meeting as the Presiding Member in attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2020-001

It was moved and seconded

That the January 30, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda be amended to add:

- Item 4.2 – Delegation - Decline of Pollinators;
 - Item 6.4 – Metro Vancouver AAC Meeting - Mileage Reimbursement;
- and be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

R/2020-002

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting dated October 24, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

Note: Shannon Lambie arrived at 7:15 pm. Item 4.2 was moved ahead of Item 4.1.

4.2 Decline of Pollinators

- Dr. Robert Masse and Agneta Eikelenboom from the North Fraser Bee Club
Dr. Masse and Ms. Eikelenboom spoke about the global problem of a decrease in bee populations, the resulting impacts and the causes of the decline. Dr. Masse provided suggestions on how the City can support nature's pollinators and answered questions from the Committee.

R/2020-003

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee support the City of Maple Ridge signing the Bee City Canada Resolution and explore an educational campaign to increase nature's pollinators.

CARRIED

4.1. Metro Vancouver Open-Air Burning

- Dr. Julie Saxton and Grace Cockle, Metro Vancouver
Dr. Saxton and Ms. Cockle gave a presentation on Metro Vancouver's Consultation on an Alternative Approach for Regulating Open-Air Burning Emissions, sought the Committee's feedback on new regulations that are being considered, and answered questions from the Committee.

5. QUESTION PERIOD – Nil

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1. Chair and Vice-Chair Selection

The staff liaison opened up the floor to nominations for Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2020.

R/2020-004

It was moved and seconded

That Bill Hardy be elected as Chair for the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2020.

CARRIED

The staff liaison opened up the floor to nominations for Vice Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2020.

R/2020-005

It was moved and seconded

That Carla Schiller be elected as Vice-Chair for the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2020.

CARRIED

6.2. 2020 Meeting Schedule

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2020 AAC Meeting Schedule.

R/2020-006

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve the proposed meeting schedule as circulated.

CARRIED

6.3. Update on Mill Rates & Water Meter Rates

The staff liaison provided an update from the City of Maple Ridge's Chief Financial Officer that the Maple Ridge Council, as part of the 2020-2024 Business Planning process, approved the recommendation to reduce Farm Class property taxes. Farm Class property taxes will be reduced by approximately half, phased in over the next two years (2020 and 2021).

Note: Item 6.4 was moved to the end of the agenda.

7. STAFF LIAISON UPDATES

7.1. Advisory Committee Overview

The committee clerk provided an overview on the role of Advisory Committees, Committee members and meeting procedures and then answered questions from the Committee.

R/2020-007

It was moved and seconded

That staff be directed to bring before Council that the Agricultural Advisory Committee feel that they have lost the diversity to fully represent agriculture in Maple Ridge and would like Council to reconsider the existing membership structure to increase the numbers of Agricultural representatives.

CARRIED

7.2. Agricultural Awareness Grants

The staff liaison informed the Committee that the applications are being accepted for the Metro Vancouver Agricultural Awareness grants.

8. TASK FORCE REPORTS

8.1. Food Garden Contest

The Committee discussed the 2019 Food Garden Contest, circulated a thank you card received from a contest participant, and formed a task force for the 2020 contest. The Task Force is considering adding a "bee-friendly" category for 2020 and Lorraine Bates offered to distribute the contest flyer at the Agricultural Fair.

R/2020-008

It was moved and seconded

That Carla Schiller and Pascale Shaw be appointed to the Food Garden Task Force for 2020.

CARRIED

8.2 Education

The staff liaison provided an overview of the tasks appointed to the Education Task Force. The Committee decided to hold off discussions regarding the work of the Education Task Force until after the Booth in the Box themes are determined.

8.3 Promotion of Agriculture

The subcommittee will be meeting in the near future to begin putting together the Booth in a Box. Candace Gordan suggested hosting a Speaker Series in the fall focusing on agriculture and Angela Boss offered to assist.

Note: Andrew Pozsar left the meeting at 8:52pm.

8.4 Mileage for Metro Vancouver AAC Meetings

Pascale Shaw requested the AAC consider mileage reimbursement for AAC members that are travelling to Metro Vancouver meetings. The staff liaison confirmed that mileage reimbursement is permitted in Policy 3.11 and that the AAC has a budget to allow the expenditure.

R/2020-009

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee reimburse eligible mileage expenses submitted via the City of Maple Ridge mileage reimbursement form, for AAC members that attend Metro Vancouver AAC Meetings.

CARRIED

9. ROUNDTABLE

Members provided verbal reports on local agricultural topics and activities. Shannon Lambie and Angela Boss introduced themselves to the Committee.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 9:15 PM

~Original signed by Councillor Robson~

Councillor Robson, Presiding Member

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