



City of Maple Ridge  
Agricultural Advisory Committee  
MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee,  
held via Teleconference on March 26, 2020 at 7:02 pm.

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bill Hardy, Chair	Member at Large
Carla Schiller, Vice Chair	Member at Large
Melissa Maltais	Fraser North Farmers Market Society
Michelle Franklin	Member at Large
Pascale Shaw	Member at Large
Angela Boss	B.C. 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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Councillor Gordy Robson	Council Liaison
Andrew Pozsar	Member at Large
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board Representative

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

R/2020-010

It was moved and seconded

**That the March 26, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda be amended to add:**

- Item 6.6 – Agricultural Advisory Committee Membership Structure;
- Item 6.7 – Backyard Chickens;

**and be approved as amended.**

CARRIED

**3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

R/2020-011

It was moved and seconded

**That the minutes of the Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting dated January 30, 2020 be adopted.**

CARRIED

**4. DELEGATIONS – Nil**

5. **QUESTION PERIOD – Nil**

6. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6.1. **Impacts of COVID-19 on Local Farms/Farmers**

Angela Boss informed the Committee that the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture was reaching out to different agriculture sectors/regions asking about the current impacts and anticipated issues of the COVID-19 pandemic and then asked about their experiences. Members shared some of the issues they and others in the industry are currently facing and how they are adapting.

6.2. **Pollinators Presentations Follow-Up**

The committee clerk shared that the delegation that presented information regarding the Decline of Pollinators to the AAC on January 30, 2020 also presented to Council on February 11, 2020. Committee members discussed the next steps to try to address the concerns raised by the Pollinators delegation.

6.3. **Dr. Bee – 2020 Bees & Blueberries Festival – August 8/9, 2020**

The Chair reviewed an event application package received for the 2020 Bees & Blueberries Festival. The Committee postponed a decision on this item until more information becomes available on the future of public events given the current COVID health crisis.

6.4. **Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management**

The staff liaison spoke about The Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management materials provided in the agenda package and encouraged members to distribute them to their contacts.

6.5. **Golden Harvest 2020**

The staff liaison asked the Committee if they would support hosting a Golden Harvest event in 2020.

R/2020-012

It was moved and seconded

**That the AAC consider including Golden Harvest as part of their 2021 Business Plan.**

**CARRIED**

Note: Items 6.6 and 6.7 were moved to after the Task Force Updates due to time constraints.

7. **LIAISON UPDATES**

7.1. **Staff Liaison**

The staff liaison provided an update on City operations during the COVID pandemic.

7.2. **Council Liaison**

An update was not available.

**8. TASK FORCE REPORTS**

**8.1. Food Garden Contest 2020**

Carla Schiller and Pascale Shaw updated the Committee on the preparations for the 2020 Food Garden Contest and discussed categories and prizes.

**8.2 Education**

The Chair discussed and sought support from the Committee to host a Speaker Series in the fall.

R/2020-013

It was moved and seconded

**That Michelle Franklin and Angela Boss work to examine potential topics for a Speaker Series that would potentially run Fall 2020/ early Winter 2021.**

CARRIED

**8.3 Promotion of Agriculture**

The Committee discussed the Booth in a Box project currently underway by the task force. Michelle Franklin and Angela Boss offered assistance with the project.

**6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS Continued**

**6.6 Agricultural Advisory Committee Membership Structure**

Pascale Shaw raised concerns that the AAC did not have representation from a variety of agricultural sectors and that valuable experience was lost when members left at the end of 2019. The Committee discussed ways to identify what sectors are missing and how to involve individuals from those sectors with the AAC.

**6.7 Backyard Chickens**

This item was moved to a future agenda due to time restraints.

**9. ROUNDTABLE**

Members provided verbal reports on local agricultural topics and activities.

**10. ADJOURNMENT - 9:00 PM**



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Bill Hardy, Chair

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