



City of Maple Ridge
Agricultural Advisory Committee
MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee,
held via Teleconference on May 28, 2020 at 7:06 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Gordy Robson	Council Liaison
Bill Hardy, Chair	Member at Large
Carla Schiller, Vice Chair	Member at Large
Andrew Pozsar	Member at Large
Michelle Franklin	Member at Large

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Adam Rieu	Staff Liaison (Incoming) / Planning Department
Amanda Grochowich	Staff Liaison (Outgoing) / Planning Department
Debbie Pope	Administrative Assistant

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Angela Boss	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture (Non-voting member)
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board Representative
Melissa Maltais	Fraser North Farmers Market Society Representative
Pascale Shaw	Member at Large
Shannon Lambie	Agriculture Land Commission (Non-voting member)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee members introduced themselves to the new incoming staff liaison, Adam Rieu. Mr. Rieu then gave the Committee an overview of his background.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2020-014

It was moved and seconded

That the May 28, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

R/2020-015

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting dated March 26, 2020 be adopted with the following item amended:

- **Item 2 - Approval of the Agenda be revised to correct meeting date of March 26, 2020.**

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS – Nil

5. QUESTION PERIOD – Nil

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1. Staff Liaison – Introductions

Members and staff had introduced themselves at beginning of meeting.

6.2. Impacts of COVID-19 on Local Farms/Farmers

The Chair updated that greenhouse businesses are doing extremely well with many suppliers having no availability and more people are now planting home gardens. Overall, the industry has recovered/flourished.

Note: Item 6.3 was moved to after item 6.6.

6.4. Pollinators Presentations Follow-Up

Michelle Franklin provided an update on the work that she and Carla Schiller have completed. More information is required and a proposal has not been written at this time, she suggested continuing discussions at the next meeting.

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

The Committee discussed if the event was still going to be able to take place in August given the current COVID related restrictions. The staff liaison will follow-up with Dr. Bee and bring that information back to the AAC in June.

6.6. Potential Food Shortage Correspondence

The Committee discussed the letter that was received from John & Marie Robson regarding potential food shortages and more community gardens. This item will be revisited at the June AAC meeting.

Note: It was noted at 7:45 pm that there were 2 members of the public that joined the meeting.

6.3. Backyard Hens

The Chair opened with discussions on the report that went to Council in 2019 and acknowledged that there are now more people interested in the keeping of hens on residential properties in Maple Ridge due to the current situation of COVID. The members of the public who were participating in the meeting were invited to provide their comments. The Committee discussed how this item could be brought back before Council.

7. LIAISON UPDATES

7.1 Staff Liaison

Amanda Grochowich advised members that Adam Rieu is taking over as the staff liaison to the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Due to COVID, a number of City staff are still working from home but same level of service is available from City Hall.

7.2 Council Liaison

Councillor Robson advised that Council has been meeting virtually for three months now.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE & TASK FORCE UPDATES

8.1 Food Garden Contest 2020

Carla Schiller provided an update on the Food Garden Contest and commented that there should be a larger number of entries this year given the increase in residents planting home gardens.

8.2 Education

Michelle Franklin reviewed possible topics for the Seminar Series:

- soil;
- small flock management;
- sheep and goat management; and
- pollinators.

The Committee discussed how to best offer the seminars: In person, virtual, or on-site. Ms. Franklin will obtain the availability of the speakers.

Members discussed putting information on pollinators onto the City's website.

8.3 Promotion of Agriculture

There was no update for this task force at this time.

9. ROUNDTABLE

Members provided verbal reports on local agricultural topics and activities. Members thanked Amanda Grochowich for her help & support of the AAC.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:47 PM



Bill Hardy, Chair

/dp