



City of Maple Ridge
Agricultural Advisory Committee
MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee,
held via teleconference on June 25, 2020 at 7:01 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
Melissa Maltais	Fraser North Farmers Market Society Representative
Pascale Shaw	Member at Large

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Adam Rieu	Staff Liaison
Erin Mark	Committee Clerk
Laura Benson	Corporate Policy and Sustainability

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board Representative
Michelle Franklin	Member at Large
Angela Boss	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture (Non-voting member)
Shannon Lambie	Agriculture Land Commission (Non-voting member)

GUESTS

John Lindner	Metro Vancouver
Theresa Duynstee	Metro Vancouver
Derek Jennejohn	Metro Vancouver
Amanda Smith	Fraser North Farmers Market Society - Alternate

Note: Andrew Pozsar was not present at the beginning of the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2020-016

It was moved and seconded

That the June 25, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

R/2020-017

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting dated May 28, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1. Metro Vancouver – Clean Air Plan and Climate 2050 Discussion Paper

- **John Lindner / Theresa Duynstee / Derek Jennejohn - Metro Vancouver**

John Lindner gave a presentation regarding the Clean Air Plan and Climate 2050 agriculture discussion paper. Mr. Lindner sought feedback on the discussion paper and answered questions from the Committee. Metro Vancouver's consultation will continue through September with webinars and questionnaires available for the public and members of the agriculture community.

Note: Andrew Pozsar joined the meeting at 7:17 pm.

4.2. Pollinators

- **Laura Benson, Corporate Policy and Sustainability**

Laura Benson presented an idea for a community engagement project that assists residents identify pollinators and create environments that support pollinators. Ms. Benson also sought feedback on a bee research project proposed to the City. Committee members provided feedback on the community engagement project and the proposed research project.

5. QUESTION PERIOD – Nil

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1. Pollinators Presentations Follow-Up

The Committee expressed interest in continuing to discuss ways to protect and encourage pollinators and discussed ways to incorporate those themes in the AAC's 2021 education initiatives (ie. Booth in a Box, Pollinator Garden Contest).

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

The Chair announced that the Dr. Bee event has been cancelled due to COVID related event restrictions.

6.3. Potential Food Shortage Correspondence

The Staff Liaison shared information about the six existing community gardens and members discussed the importance of community gardens.

R/2020-018

It was moved and seconded

That the Staff Liaison draft a response to the letter received from John and Marie Robson indicating that the AAC is supportive of community gardens and providing information about community gardens in Maple Ridge.

Note: Melissa Maltais left the meeting at 7:56 pm and Amanda Smith stepped in as Fraser North Farmers Market Society's representative.

7. LIAISON UPDATES

7.1 Staff Liaison

The Staff Liaison shared that City Hall is still closed to the public due to COVID.

7.2 Council Liaison

Councillor Robson spoke about the municipal tax decrease for farms that is being phased in over two years (2020 & 2021). Councillor Robson inquired to the status of the water meter rate research.

R/2020-019

It was moved and seconded

That the Staff Liaison provided data on water meter rates for farms in other Metro Vancouver municipalities and determine if those municipalities offer discounts and how the discounts are calculated.

CARRIED

Members discussed the review of Committees of Council done in fall 2019 and resolution R/2020-007 passed at the January 2020 AAC meeting asking Council to reconsider the current AAC membership structure.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE & TASK FORCE UPDATES

8.1 Food Garden Contest 2020

The Staff Liaison shared an update on the entries received for the Food Garden Contest.

8.2 Education

The Committee Clerk shared an email update from Michelle Franklin regarding speakers for a summer series on pollinators. The Staff Liaison confirmed that he is working with Ms. Franklin to coordinate the speaker series using a virtual format that can accommodate up to 300 people.

8.3 Promotion of Agriculture

The Chair shared that the Task Force will be starting fresh on the Booth in a Box project over the summer.

9. ROUNDTABLE

Members provided verbal reports on local agricultural topics and activities.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:48 PM



Bill Harey, Chair

/em