

City 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 Maple Ridge Municipal Hall on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 7:02 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Craig Speirs	City of Maple Ridge
Margaret Daskis, Chair	Member at Large
Stephanie James, Vice-Chair	Equestrian Agricultural Sector
Al Kozak	Agricultural Sector
Bill Hardy	Member at Large
Candace Gordon	Haney Farmers Market Society
Chris Zabek	Regional Agrologist, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands
David Kaplan	Member at Large
Ian Brooks	Member at Large

GUESTS/DELEGATIONS

Ione Smith	Upland Agriculture Consulting, Director
Kazlyn Bonner	Upland Agriculture Consulting, Co-op Student

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Grochowich	Staff Liaison / Planning Department
Amanda Allen	Committee Clerk

REGRETS

Kamelli Mark	Agricultural Land Commission
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board
Ryan Murphy	Agricultural Sector

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

R/2018-001

It was moved and seconded

That the agenda for the January 25, 2018 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting be amended to add Item 3 - 2018 ELECTIONS OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR, that items be renumbered accordingly, and that the agenda as amended be approved.

CARRIED

3. **2018 ELECTIONS OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The Staff Liaison opened the floor to nominations for a Chair.

R/2018-002

It was moved and seconded

That Margaret Daskis be elected Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2018.

CARRIED

The Staff Liaison opened the floor to nominations for a Vice Chair.

R/2018-003

It was moved and seconded

That Stephanie James be elected Vice Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2018.

CARRIED

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

R/2018-004

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Maple Ridge Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting dated November 23, 2017 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. **DELEGATIONS**

5.1 **Food Hub Implementation Plan Update**

- Lone Smith, Upland Agriculture Consulting

Lone Smith provided an update on the Food Hub Implementation Plan and reviewed the project background, methodology, situational analysis, and market identification. Ms. Smith provided an overview of the proposed product mix and target sectors for Food Hub sales, as well as the anticipated operational considerations of processing, storage and distributing product. Ms. Smith also reviewed the proposed next steps of the project.

5.2 **Soil Deposit Bylaw Update**

- Mike Pym, Environmental Planner 1, City of Maple Ridge

The Environmental Planner provided an overview of the proposed bylaw amendments to the Soil Deposit Regulation bylaw. Two public open house events were held and two questionnaires were collected to solicit community input with feedback incorporated into the bylaw. The draft bylaw was presented to Council on November 28, 2017 and granted first reading: <http://www.mapleridge.ca/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/11282017-2979>

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Membership Update

The Committee Clerk advised that at the January 16, 2018 Council meeting, Council approved the re-appointments of Ian Brooks and Al Kozak and the appointments of David Kaplan and Ryan Murphy as members to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for a two year term.

6.2 2018 AAC Meeting Schedule

The Committee Clerk provided a draft AAC meeting schedule for review. Committee reviewed and considered changing some meeting dates. The Committee Clerk to circulate the 2018 AAC meeting schedule.

6.3 Metro Vancouver AAC Update

The Chair advised that a Ministry of Agriculture Advisory Workshop is scheduled for February 21, 2018 and registration is open for three AAC members. Bill Hardy, Al Kozak and Councillor Speirs expressed interest in participating. The Staff Liaison will register members by the February 9, 2018 deadline.

The Chair advised that the next Metro Vancouver AAC meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2018.

6.4 Innovations Day Update

Ms. James reported that the Innovations Day subcommittee met in December 2017 to discuss the agenda and possible event speakers. The Innovations in Emerging Cities Forum is scheduled at the ACT on April 4, 2018 from 7:30am -3:30pm. The event is free but pre-registration is required. Mr. Kozak reported on his discussion with the Chair of the Economic Development Committee with regards to how agriculture could participate in the forum. Mr. Kozak suggested one of the event speakers could include a local farmer currently practicing automated growing on their farm.

6.5 Agricultural Development Permit Area Update

The Staff Liaison advised that the Agricultural Development Permit Area guidelines have been forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture and the ALC for comment. The Staff Liaison anticipates a presentation of the updated guidelines at the next AAC meeting. A presentation to Council of the Agricultural Development Permit Area guidelines is tentatively scheduled for April 2018. The Staff Liaison advised that the report on Agriculture Zone Setbacks is underway but a date has not yet been set for a presentation to Council.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Education Subcommittee

Mr. Kozak reported that the Haney Farmers Market recently held a strategic planning session facilitated by Cheryl Ashlie. Mr. Kozak suggested the AAC consider future presentations by the Young Agrarians and Haney Farmers Market. Mr. Kozak reported that the Golden Eagle Farm Group is hosting a public forum on proposed plans for their lands at the corner of Golden Ears Way and 203 Street on February 3, 2018 and invited members to attend.

7.2 Food Distribution Subcommittee

7.2.1 Food Hub Feasibility Study

Mr. Kozak reported that he accompanied Blue Moon Organics on a delivery day to and from their distribution facility. Mr. Kozak provided an update on his discussions with Seven Acres Farm and the Nova Scotia Food Hub around the logistics of paper work, products and software.

8. CORRESPONDENCE - Nil

9. ROUNDTABLE

Candace Gordon reported that the Haney Farmers Market AGM is scheduled for February 19, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Fraser Room at the Maple Ridge Public Library.

Chris Zabek advised that the Pacific Agriculture Show at the Tradex Exhibition Centre in Abbotsford is running until January 27, 2018.

Ian Brooks reported lots of activity this time of year.

Bill Hardy reported that Grow & Gather (Trice Farms) will no longer host the Fall Haney Farmers Market as attendance was dwindling and a location closer to town is being sought. Mr. Hardy attended the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting on January 10, 2018 and has joined the Green Infrastructure & Natural Assets Inventory & Evaluation Subcommittee.

Councillor Speirs advised that the dedication of 105 Avenue to Jim Robson Way is taking place at Planet Ice on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 5:00 pm. The Provincial Government is holding an information session on the plans for the Burnett Street supportive housing project on January 29, 2018 from 4:00-8:00pm at the Haney Presbyterian Church.

Margaret Daskis informed members of a recent client audit. Ms. Daskis will be participating in the internationally attended Future Food-Tech Summit in San Francisco this March.

Amanda Grochowich advised that the Ministry of Agriculture has released a Farm Diversification through Agri-Tourism guidebook and will email a link to members for information. Metro Vancouver is accepting applications from non-profit organizations for a 2018 Agriculture Awareness Grant to promote a better understanding of agriculture and local food production. The submission deadline is March 12, 2018.

10. QUESTION PERIOD

Christian Cowley queried if it is known which software the Nova Scotia Food Hub is currently utilizing. Mr. Kozak responded that he does not have that information and could enquire with the Hub if so requested.

Mr. Cowley informed the AAC that the CEED Centre is creating a Youth employment program that will use a cargo e-trike to pick up organic waste at participating local restaurants for pre-composting and processing in the Neighbourhood House worm beds.

Mr. Cowley noted that it is his understanding that a requirement of the Metro Vancouver Agriculture Awareness Grant is that the scope must impact more than one municipality.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** – 9:11 pm



M. Daskis, Chair

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