



City of Maple Ridge
Agricultural Advisory Committee
AGENDA
Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 7:00 pm
Held via Zoom Teleconference

Meeting Access Information

To practice social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic we will be holding the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting via Zoom teleconference. All participants including members of the AAC and the public are asked to join the meeting from home using the following access information:

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone

<https://mapleridge-ca.zoom.us/j/99299359284?pwd=YmVDcjl6NElzMkZUT0k3b3JFMm1JZz09>

Or join the meeting using your phone

Dial: +17789072071 Meeting ID: 992 9935 9284 Passcode: 376486

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** – April 22, 2021
4. **DELEGATIONS**
 - 4.1 Empowering Farmers with DirectFood.Store
Colin Schmidt, SR VP, Product Development, DirectFood.Store
5. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - 5.1. Agriculture Education Update
6. **LIAISON UPDATES**
 - 6.1. Staff Liaison
 - 6.2. Council Liaison
7. **TASK FORCE UPDATES**
 - 7.1. 2021 Food and Garden Contest
8. **QUESTION PERIOD**
9. **ROUNDTABLE**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: September 30, 2021

Agenda Submission Deadline: September 9, 2021

QUESTION PERIOD

Question Period provides the public with the opportunity to ask questions or make comments on subjects that are of concern to them. Each person will be given 2 minutes to speak.
Up to ten minutes in total is allotted for Question Period.

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City of Maple Ridge
Agricultural Advisory Committee
MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee,
held via Zoom teleconference on May 27, 2021 at 7:00 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Gordy Robson	Council Liaison
Bill Hardy, Chair	Member at Large
Carla Schiller, Vice Chair	Member at Large
Pascale Shaw	Member at Large
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board Representative
Conley Keyes	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture (Non-voting member)
Angela Boss	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture (Non-voting member)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Adam Rieu	Staff Liaison, Planner 1
Sabina Chand	Committee Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Melissa Maltais	Fraser North Farmers Market Society Representative
Andrew Pozsar	Member at Large
Shannon Lambie	Agriculture Land Commission (Non-voting member)

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2021-009

It was moved and seconded

That the agenda for the May 27, 2021 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

R/2021-010

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the April 22, 2021 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

Note: Carla Schiller joined at 7:17 pm

**4.1 Proposed Innovation District on Sumas Mountain –
Gavin Dew, Chief Strategic Advisor to Abbotsford Tech District**

Gavin Dew presented on the Abbotsford Tech District project, highlights included: a proposed development of a high-tech hub located on Sumas Mountain, agriculture innovation in BC and establishment of the B.L. Au Centre for innovation and food security.

Note: G. Dew left at 7:37 pm

At this time the Committee welcomed new member Conley Keyes, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture representative. The Chair thanked previous representative, Angela Boss for all her support and commitment on the Committee.

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 2021 Grant Application

Lorraine Bates proposed a grant application for the 2021 Country Festival which is scheduled for July 16 to July 29, 2021. L. Bates spoke about key elements of the project and challenges associated with raising funds during the pandemic. The Committee discussed the importance of supporting agriculture and farmers during COVID-19.

R/2021-011

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee approves the 2021 Country Festival grant application for \$1,000.

CARRIED

Lorraine Bates did not vote

5.2 Annual Presentation to Council

The Chair advised that the Staff Liaison and Chair will provide a report to Council this year that summarizes AAC's initiatives over the past and asked the Committee to provide their feedback.

5.3 AAC Educational Opportunities

The Committee discussed many ways to promote and educate the public on agriculture:

- speaker series webinars open to the public: topics included pollinators, understanding what it means to live in a farming community, celebrate agriculture week, soil health and food security;
- C. Keyes to provide a report on Maple Ridge agriculture community feedback;
- short videos to display different examples of agriculture in Maple Ridge;
- B.C farming resource link: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/strengthening-farming/planning-for-agriculture/countryside_and_you_booklet.pdf
- Staff Liaison and C. Keyes to organize a webinar for June 2021.

5.4 Farm Vehicle Awareness in Maple Ridge

The Staff Liaison advised that the City's Engineering Department is supportive of raising public awareness on farm vehicles in Maple Ridge. The Staff Liaison will work with Conley Keyes and the Communications Department to introduce information on farm vehicle awareness on the City's website. Further update will be provided at the next meeting.

6. LIAISON UPDATES

6.1 Staff Liaison

The Staff Liaison advised that AAC previously received \$2,250 from Metro Vancouver for outreach education that has yet to be used.

6.2 Council Liaison - NIL

Note: A. Boss left at 8:27 pm

7. TASK FORCE UPDATES

7.1 2021 Food and Garden Contest

The Staff Liaison shared that the contest has received over 60 entries. Discussion followed on submission guidelines and promotion of early bird draw prizes.

7.2 Promotion of Agriculture – Booth in a Box Project

No further update.

8. QUESTION PERIOD – NIL

9. ROUNDTABLE

Members provided verbal reports on local agricultural topics and activities.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Bill Hardy, Chair

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