



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 February 25, 2021 at 7:01 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Gordy Robson	Council Liaison
Bill Hardy	Member at Large
Carla Schiller	Member at Large
Pascale Shaw	Member at Large
Andrew Pozsar	Member at Large
Lorraine Bates	Agricultural Fair Board Representative
Melissa Maltais	Fraser North Farmers Market Society Representative
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

Shannon Lambie	Agriculture Land Commission (Non-voting member)
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Mr. Adam Rieu, Staff Liaison chaired the meeting until the election of the chair.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

R/2021-001

It was moved and seconded

That the agenda for the February 25, 2021 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

R/2021-002

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the November 26, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS - NIL

5. QUESTION PERIOD - NIL

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Chair and Vice Chair Selection

The Staff Liaison opened up the floor to nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

R/2021-003

It was moved and seconded

That Bill Hardy be elected as Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2021.

CARRIED

R/2021-004

It was moved and seconded

That Carla Schiller be elected as Vice Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2021.

CARRIED

6.2 Advisory Committee Overview

The Staff Liaison provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Agricultural Advisory Committee orientation and highlighted the following: legislative procedures, role and function of advisory committees, City meeting guidelines and 2021 deliverables.

6.3 2021 Meeting Schedule

The Committee discussed the number of annual meetings and agreed to keep the schedule as is to stay productive on specific projects and make timely decisions.

6.4 Water Meter Rates Research Update

Carla Schiller provided a verbal update on water meter rates provided by Metro Vancouver and concluded that most municipalities have regular rates and no reductions for farmers.

6.5 2021 Food Garden Contest

The Committee discussed creative ways to advertise and promote the 2021 Food Garden Contest.

R/2021-005

It was moved and seconded

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee create a 2021 Food Garden Task Force including Carla Schiller, Pascale Shaw, Bill Hardy, Melissa Maltais, Lorraine Bates, Councillor Robson with the support of the Staff Liaison.

CARRIED

6.6 Community Garden Program

The Committee discussed best practices for establishing community gardens and how to locate gardening opportunities. It was noted that the Staff Liaison will follow up with City Staff that oversee the contact information on garden projects and provide an update at the next meeting.

7. LIAISON UPDATES

7.1 Staff Liaison

The Staff Liaison provided a brief update on the following items:

- Farm property tax reduction noted in the Tax Rate Bylaw;
- Farm class rates were decreased;
- Land trust letter from Metro Vancouver identifying no immediate support is available;
- Maple Ridge food Hub update.

7.2 Council Liaison

Councillor Robson provided a brief update on the continued service provided by the Friends in Need Food Bank during the pandemic.

8. TASK FORCE UPDATES

8.1 Promotion of Agriculture

No further update.

9. ROUNDTABLE

The Committee discussed an e-bulletin that was circulated via email to provide members with a number of free educational opportunities:

https://agriservicebc.campayn.com/contact_list_form/signup/88410

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm.



Bill Hardy, Chair

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