Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 7:00pm
Via Zoom

A G E N D A

Page

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - November 24, 2021

Recommendation that the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the November 24, 2021 meeting.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1-5 **1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - October 27, 2021**

Recommendation that the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the October 27, 2021 meeting.

2. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee Special Closed - October 27, 2021

Recommendation that the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the October 27, 2021 Special Closed meeting.

(Provided under separate cover)

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

Page

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Future of Farming Final Report

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: TBD
Location: TBD
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

Township of Langley
Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 7:00pm
Via Zoom

M I N U T E S

Present:
J. Caldarella, Community Co-Chair
Councillor B. Whitmarsh, Council Co-Chair

C. Allison, B. Pearson, B. Sharp, and A. Smith

Guests:
E, Berube - Division Manager, Air Quality Bylaw & Regulation Development
A. Saraswat - Senior Project Manager, Air Quality Bylaw & Regulation Development
J. Saxton - Air Quality Planner, Air Quality Bylaw & Regulation Development
M. Richter - Senior Policy Analyst, Air Quality Bylaw & Regulation Development

Staff:
V. Gafka, Senior Manager, Economic Investment and Development
M. Gunn, Planner, Community and Policy Planning
R. Nelson, Senior Planner, Community and Policy Planning
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - October 27, 2021

Moved by A. Smith,
Seconded by B. Sharp,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the October 27, 2021 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - September 22, 2021

Moved by B. Sharp,
Seconded by B. Pearson,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the September 22, 2021 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Open Air Burning

Esther Berube and Julie Saxton provided a presentation regarding the second phase of development of the new bylaw for Open-Air Burning of Vegetative Debris. They stated that the reason Metro Vancouver is addressing emissions is for the health and environmental impacts. Currently, emissions are regulated at the provincial level with the BC Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation and the regional level with the GVRD Air Quality Management Bylaw. The proposed new emission regulations would apply to open-air burning of vegetative debris which includes agricultural burning, backyard burning, land clearing, and small forestry burns. Approvals or permits would continue to be required for burns that cannot meet the requirements of the regulation.

The proposed authorization process will include:

- Register property and pay fee (once per year);
- Try to minimize amount being burned;
- Check distance from receptors and applicable requirements;
- Notify neighbours and Metro Vancouver;
- Call MV Open Burning Advisory to check if OK to burn;
- Burn in accordance with requirements;
- Retain records for one year (a record keeping template will be provided).

The new Regulation development timeline is as follows:

- Phase 1 - Public Engagement – November 2019 – August 2020
- Feedback Review – Summary of Phase 1, adjustments to proposals, and development of Phase 2 consultation paper
- Phase 2 – Public Engagement – July 2021- October 2021
- Summary of feedback, Bylaw drafting, and consideration of draft Bylaw by MVRD Board – 2022.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- Will there be incentives for farmers not to burn?
    - Metro Vancouver recognizes the challenges for farms and agriculture land. A study has been conducted to look at alternatives to open-air burning. The second part of the study is underway and materials will be developed to tray and reduce the barriers and provide alternatives for farmers. There will be financial aid to access equipment such as chippers etc.
- Will the process be streamlined so residents do not need two permits? i.e. one for the Township and one for Metro Vancouver?
    - Discussions are underway with municipal fire departments.
    - Every municipality has different requirements, timelines etc.
    - MV will remind people that they also need to adhere to the requirements in their municipality, and municipalities will provide MV requirements.
- Streamlining the process and communication of new regulations would be beneficial.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2. Cannabis Emissions

Esther Berube and Arvind Saraswat provided a presentation regarding the proposed Cannabis Production and Processing Emission Regulation. Regulating emissions is needed because cannabis production releases ozone precursors and odorous emissions are a major source of complaints.

Scope of proposed regulation to include:

- Enclosed cultivation, trimming and drying, and on-site waste management;
- product extraction; and
- distribution.

Proposals for managing emissions from indoor cultivation:

1. Emission management plan;
2. Emission control requirements;
3. Complaints and officer observation response plan;
4. Records and reporting;
5. Minimum Distance Requirements; and
6. Cost recovery.

Regulation development process includes:

- Phase 1 – Engagement – June to November 2019
- Feedback review – 2020
- Additional engagement – November 2020 – March 2021
- Report to Committee and Board – July 2021
- Phase 2 – Engagement – August 2021 – November 2021

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Future of Farming

M. Gunn presented 13 recommendations for the Future of Farming draft report based on input received from the Task Force and working groups over the past several months. She noted the five lenses which the Task Force used when discussing the needs of farmers:

- Future of farming;
- Farming protection;
- Assistance to small and medium sized farms;
- Food security; and
- Regulations.

F. WORK PROGRAM

The draft report will be presented to the committee at the November meeting with it going to Council before the end of the year. Committee members were encouraged to attend the Council meeting when the report and presentation are going to Council. Staff thanked the committee members for their hard work and dedication towards getting this Future of Farming report drafted.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Investment Agriculture Foundation

V. Gafka reported that the Township has made a funding application to the Investment Agriculture Foundation's Local Government Partnership Program to complete agriculture sector inventory and capacity work. The application identifies the following initiative objectives:

1. Inventory work to enhance the understanding of agricultural land use and farming activities;
2. Survey existing agricultural activities and agri-businesses; and
3. Identify success factors and opportunities for improvement.

Staff hope to hear if they were awarded the grant in early November and a report to Council will be forthcoming.

2. Farmer's Institute Update

A. Smith reported that the Institute is working on streamlining their focus and updating their mission statement. They will also be sending a mailout to help support local farmers with the new provincial requirement to register their groundwater use.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: November 24, 2021
Location: via Zoom
Time: 7:00pm

J. MOTION TO RESOLVE INTO SPECIAL CLOSED MEETING

Moved by C. Allison,
Seconded by A. Smith,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee now resolve into a Special Closed Meeting for discussion of the following item, in accordance with and as identified under Section 90 of the Community Charter:

Item A.1 - Section 90(1) (n) Consideration; and
Item B.2 - Section 90(1) (a) Personnel.
CARRIED

K. TERMINATE

Moved by B. Sharp,
Seconded by A. Smith,
That the meeting terminate at 8:40pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair