Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 7:00pm
Via Zoom

M I N U T E S

Present:
Councillor B. Whitmarsh, Council Co-Chair
Councillor D. Davis, Council Co-Chair

C. Allison, J. Caldarella, I. Han, M. Mann, T. Meyers, A. Smith, and U. Tayyab

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

Welcome

Councillor Davis welcomed everyone, and round table introductions took place.

Code of Ethics Signing

Members signed the *"Code of Ethics, Confidentiality, and Conflict of Interest for Council Members and Appointees"* and submitted them electronically.

Election of Co-Chair

Staff provided information on the role of the Community Co-Chair and asked for members to consider if they would like to take on this position. Election to be held at February meeting.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - January 26, 2022

Moved by J. Caldarella,
Seconded by C. Allison,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the January 26, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

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

Moved by J. Caldarella,
Seconded by C. Allison,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the November 24, 2021 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Review Terms of Reference

R. Nelson commented on the Terms of Reference provided in the package for information and noted that it outlines the purpose and mandate of the committee and protocols surrounding the functioning of the committee.

2. 2021 AAEEC Annual Report

R. Nelson reviewed the 2021 Annual Report for the benefit of the new members.

3. 2022 Work Program

M. Gunn reviewed the 10 recommendations from the Future of Farming draft report and noted that the top two would be good for the committee to focus on in 2022. The two recommended projects are as follows:

1. Media:
    a. Develop a dedicated agriculture webpage to include all things Agriculture in the Township including the contact information for the Agriculture Planner.
    b. Develop a dedicated business agriculture webpage to provide information for farmers (new and current).
2. Regulations
    a. Complete a review of current bylaws and policies
    b. Complete an in-depth information gathering review of other jurisdiction's agriculture policies and bylaws for comparison.

F. WORK PROGRAM

Staff will draft a Terms of Reference for each of these projects.

It was further noted that the goal is to have a Farm Tour this year which would also be part of the work plan. With the two projects regarding media and regulations, as well as the Farm Tour, the committee was in agreeance that this would take a considerable amount of time and therefore make up the majority of the 2022 Work Plan.

MOTION
Move by J. Caldarella,
Seconded by A. Smith,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee receive and endorse the 2022 Work Plan, as presented by staff.
CARRIED

COUNCIL
Moved by I. Hann,
Seconded by C. Allison,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee recommends that Council approve the AAEEC 2022 Work Plan. (See Attachment A).
CARRIED

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. IAF Funding Application Update

V. Gafka reported that the Township has been successful in its grant application for Investment Agriculture Foundation funds to complete an Agri business inventory in the Township. This project aligns with the work of the Future of Farming Task Force. An RFP has been advertised for a consultant. Staff will consult with the AAEEC along with other stakeholder organizations on how to achieve this project. The work must be completed in 12 months.

2. 2022 Membership List

Provided electronically.

3. 2022 Meeting Schedule

Provided in package for information.

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

4. Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (LSAF) Update

M. Gunn reported that LSAF has recently advertised for three types of grants that will benefit the Langley agricultural community:

1. Up to $2,000 for a on-farm project;
2. Up to $1,000 for post-secondary studies or continuing professional studies; and
3. Up to $5,000 for a formal research project.

Each successful applicant will be asked to share what they have learned for the benefit of the agricultural community.

She further reported that on February 22, 2022 she will be attending a Common Ground Meeting to share information on behalf of the Township regarding the AAEEC and the Agricultural Viability Strategy.

February 22, 2022 is “Agriculture Day – Forks Up”. Township Staff are developing an agriculture day campaign designed to raise public awareness about all things agriculture in the Township with a social media contest.

Metro Vancouver is still conducting public surveys regarding the cannabis emissions and open burning regulations.

6. Farmers Institute Update

A. Smith reported that the Groundwater Well Registration seminar took place on January 26 and that a video of the presentation will be forwarded to the AAEEC.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022
Location: via Zoom
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by J. Caldarella,
Seconded by U. Tayyab,
That the meeting terminate at 8:33pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair

Attachment A

Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee Proposed 2022 Work Program

The Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee proposes to undertake the following work in 2022 consistent with the Committee's purpose and mandate. Calendar months show the time and duration of the work.

Project & Associated Tasks	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Agricultural Viability Strategy (AVS) Provide advice, support, input and direction in the implementation of AVS.	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
2.3.1 Finalize the work of the Future of Farming Task Force	√	√	√									
2.1 Recommendation of the Future of Farming Task Force: Media – Develop a dedicated agriculture webpage to include all things Agriculture in the Township including the contact information for the Agriculture Planner.		√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
2.1 Recommendation of the Future of Farming Task Force: Media – Develop a dedicated business agriculture webpage to provide information for farmers (new and current).			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
2.3.1 Recommendation of the Future of Farming Task Force: Regulation – Complete a review of current bylaws and policies related to farming and agriculture.			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
2.3.1 Recommendation of the Future of Farming Task Force: Regulation – Complete an in-depth information gathering review of other jurisdiction's agriculture policies and bylaws for comparison			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
Farm Tour - *Tentative* Plan and host the Annual Farm Tour; scheduled in early Fall				√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
Buy Local Provide advice, support, input and direction, as required.	O	O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O
Agriculture Business Inventory in the Township Recommendation of the Future of Farming Task Force. Funded through a grant from the Investment Agriculture Foundation.	O	O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O
Consider or inquire into matters as requested by Council Respond to on-going requests as they arise.	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√

Key:

√ = Committee-led, Council initiative
O = On-going initiative, based on staff work programs and respective strategies such as AVS and EDS
L = Project led by the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation