Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 7:00pm
Langley Regional Airport
#300, 5385-216 Street
Langley, BC

M I N U T E S

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

A. Burns, I. Han, M. Mann, T. Meyers, A. Smith, U. Tayyab, and T. Townsley

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 - March 23, 2022

Moved by T. Townsley,
Seconded by U. Tayyab,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the March 23, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - February 23, 2022

Moved by I. Han,
Seconded by T. Meyers,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the February 23, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Policy and Communications Review

Based on the Future of Farming Task Force recommendations, the committee decided to focus on the recommendations to review the current bylaws and policies related to farming and agriculture, and to also develop a dedicated agriculture webpage to include all things agriculture in the Township. The Policy review was presented and discussed at the February meeting.

Some of the “big ideas” that were generated for Communication include:

- Education
- Links
- Fact-based
- General TOL Ag info
- Ag programs
- Regulation links
- Funding opportunities
- Policy links
- Bylaw links

Communication relates to the Agricultural Viability Strategy (AVS) in the following sections:

Section 2.1.4 - Promotion of Agriculture
Section 2.1.8 - Farms on ALR Land
Section 2.1.9 - Awareness of Normal Farm Practices
Section 2.1.11 - Agri-tourism
Section 2.2.6 - Farmers’ Markets

Staff presented the Terms of Reference for both working groups (see attachment A).

The committee spent time in their two working groups and presented their initial thoughts and ideas of what they will focus on:

Farm Policy and Regulatory Policy Review:

- Minimizing ‘Red Tape’;
- The goal is to have recommendations for amendments/refinements to the current bylaws;
- Application of bylaws in urban areas as opposed to application in non-urban areas
- Bird control and pest control;

F. WORK PROGRAM

- Licensing and selling eggs;
- Timelines with permitting;
- Septic tank maintenance;
- Review zoning and farming bylaws;
- Look for outdated language in bylaws;
- Pull from the AVS for recommendations.

Communications:

- Why are we communicating? What are we communicating? Who is the audience?
- Identify and articulate a specific “vibe” - what is farming in Langley about?
- Goals for success in the industry;
- What does a farmer (in all stages of farming) need to know?
- Review the Township website as this is the initial source of information; and
- Review the use of social media platforms.

2. Farm Tour

Staff reported that the Farm Tour will take place in June 2022 (date to be determined) at the Derek Doubleday Arboretum. The event will include stations with representatives from the following organizations:

- The Learning Farm
- Langley Demonstration Garden
- Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation Food Forest
- Langley Community Farmers’ Market

Participants will have the opportunity to rotate through the different stations to obtain information about the organizations.

Details will be confirmed soon.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Chamber of Commerce Update

A. Burns reported that the Chamber has begun in-person meetings and events and that a virtual Live Conversations series is taking place.

2. Farmer's Institute Update

T. Townsley reported that the Status of Farming survey will be launched soon and that their new website is up and running at www.langleyfarmers.ca.

3. Metro AAC Update

J. Caldarella provided a written report of the Metro AAC meeting that he attended on February 24, 2022 where they discussed the Regional Parks Plan, Climate 2050 Agricultural Road Map, and Adoption of Updated Air Quality Management Regulatory Fees.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022
Location: Langley Regional Airport
#300, 5385-216 Street
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by T. Townsley,
Seconded by M. Mann,
That the meeting terminate at 9:00pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair