Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 7:00pm
Langley Regional Airport
#300, 5385-216 Street
Langley, BC

A G E N D A

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A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - April 27, 2022

Recommendation that the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the April 27, 2022 meeting.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1-7 **1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - March 23, 2022**

Recommendation that the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the March 23, 2022 meeting.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Farm Policy and Regulatory Review

2. Communications

3. Farm Tour

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G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. **Chamber of Commerce Update**

2. **Farmer's Institute Update**

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2022
Location: Langley Regional Airport
#300, 5385-216 Street
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

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

TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY
AAEEC 2022 WORK PROGRAM
REGULATIONS REVIEW AND COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

Terms of Reference

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The AAEEC is an established, and Council-appointed group of community volunteers that works to ensure that the agricultural industry and farmers have political representation and advocacy for the contributions that farming provides to Township of Langley. The AAEEC and their annual work plan is guided by the Agriculture Viability Strategy (AVS) which was adopted by Council in 2013. The AVS identifies four main strategies to strengthen farming in the Township:

1. Provide a welcoming business environment for farming;
2. Provide the required services and infrastructure;
3. Provide a secure agriculture land base; and
4. Support farmer use of best farm management practices.

The AAEEC completed the work of the Future of Farming Task Force in December 2021, developing 10 recommendations to Council in priority order. On January 26, 2022, the AAEEC made a motion to receive and endorse the 2022 Work Plan, as presented by staff that included the top two recommendations and recommended that Council approve the AAEEC 2022 Work Plan. The top two recommendations are outlined below:

1. Regulations Review:
   a) Consider the existing regulatory context, specifically bylaws and policies in the Township that currently provide guidance and regulate the use of agriculture properties. The objective is to compile information and comment on the effectiveness of the bylaws and policies that will subsequently assist in forming recommendations for improvements for said bylaws and policies, if it is determined to be required.

   b) Complete an in-depth information gathering review of other jurisdiction's agriculture policies and bylaws for comparison.

2. Communications Development:
   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).

On February 28, 2022, Council endorsed the 2022 Work Plan.

Guided by the AVS, the AAEEC provide continuity of representation and advocacy as it works to complete the specifics of this Terms of Reference.

1.1 Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to outline the terms of reference with respect to the two 2022 Work Plan items:

- Purpose;
- Scope of the work to be undertaken;
- Deliverables and timeline.

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Regulations Review and Communication Development is for the AAEEC to provide input and feedback with respect to:

Regulations Review:

c) Consider the existing regulatory context, specifically bylaws and policies in the Township that currently provide guidance and regulate the use of agriculture properties. The objective is to compile information and comment on the effectiveness of the bylaws and policies that will subsequently assist in forming recommendations for improvements for said bylaws and policies, if it is determined to be required.

d) Complete an in-depth information gathering review of other jurisdiction's agriculture policies and bylaws for comparison.

Communications Development:

c) Develop a dedicated agriculture webpage to include all things agriculture in the Township including the contact information for the Agriculture Planner.

d) Develop a dedicated business agriculture webpage to provide information for farmers (prospective, new, and current).

2.1 Reference Materials

The AAEEC will use the AVS to guide and support the work.

3.0 Scope of Work

The following sections describe the general approach to be taken to the scope of work outlined.

3.1 Membership

The Work Plan items will be completed by the volunteers currently serving on the AAEEC and other members with expertise or experience in the subject areas such as a representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Land Commission, Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation and/or the University of British Columbia. As there are two Work Plan items, the AAEEC members, at the February 23, 2022 meeting, chose to split into two groups (Regulations Review and Communications Development) to facilitate the completion of the work.

3.2 Staff Support

Township staff will facilitate the participation and contributions of the Work Plan items by:

- Scheduling the meetings and preparing the agendas;
- Attending the meetings to facilitate the discussion, provide technical advice, and obtain input; and
- Preparing summary notes of meetings.

3.3 Regulations Review General Approach

The scope of work includes research, analysis, and recommendations to the AAEEC to work to cut the red tape for farmers. The Future of Farming Task Force concluded that the regulations for farming are cumbersome, difficult to understand at times and often require numbers steps with other organizations, such as the Agriculture Land Commission, to complete a project. Working with Staff, the members will review the bylaws and policies that are related to farming working to understand the background and purpose while looking for ways to streamline or update. The members will also analyze other local governments bylaws and policies, including other regulated communities, for comparison.

3.4 Communications Development General Approach

The scope of work includes the review of other local governments agriculture webpages and development of content for the new Township Agriculture webpage. The work should build on the work of the Future of Farming Task Force which concluded that the following should be considered if a new Township agriculture webpage was developed:

- Visually appealing
- Easy to navigate with clear language and fact based
- Links to bylaws, policies, and regulations
- Link from main page to relevant agriculture webpages
- Langley Farming Business Directory

4.0 DELIVERABLES

- The Regulations Review and Communications Development group is each responsible to provide timely updates, oral or written, to the AAEEC as the research progresses. The AAEEC shall receive these updates for information. To accomplish this, each Work Plan Item Group shall select one person from the group to be their spokesperson for communication purposes. Note that having a principal spokesperson will not limit the possibility of others from the group communicating and presenting to the AAEEC. The spokesperson will provide updates at each meeting of the AAEEC.
- Each Work Plan Item group shall provide a final presentation to the AAEEC summarizing their findings and recommendations.

5.0 TIME SCHEDULE

The project is expected to have a significant portion of the research work completed by the June 2022 AAEEC meeting with presentation of the findings and next steps to the AAEEC at the September 2022 meeting.