Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 7:02pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

M I N U T E S

Present:
J. Caldarella, Community Co-Chair
Councillor M. Pratt, Council Co-Chair

C. Alison, A. Cheema, B. Holmes, C. Redekop, A. Smith, T. Taylor, and U. Tayyab

Guest:
C. Keys, Ministry of Agriculture and Foods

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

Election of Co-Chair
A. Smith nominated J. Caldarella to be the Community Co-chair for 2023.
C. Allison seconded the nomination.

J. Caldarella was elected as Community Co-Chair for 2023, by acclamation, and assumed the position of Chair.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - March 22, 2023

Moved by T. Taylor,
Seconded by U. Tayyab,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the March 22, 2023 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - February 22, 2023

Moved by C. Allison,
Seconded by B. Holmes,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the February 22, 2023 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Conley Keys, B.Sc. A.Ag

Central Fraser Valley and Sea to Sky Resource Development Agrologist
Extension and Support Services Branch, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Foods

C. Keys provided a brief update on AgriServiceBC. He noted that most of the inquiries that he receives are regarding the confusion between ALC regulations and local bylaws. Some other key inquiries include development around riparian areas, funding, farm status and BC assessment. Only two formal complaints were received last year: one for odor and one for food safety.

M. Gunn continued by reporting that the Township received over 100 inquiries in 2022 including: cannabis/hemp, land use, how to start a farm/winery, and regulation, permitting, and housing.

The Agri Stability program has been extended to June 30. The Federal Funding Agreement is starting April 1, and the Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program opens April 1.

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Farm Tour

M. Gunn commented that the AAEEC organizes a farm tour each year which is an action from the Agricultural Viability Strategy, item 2.1.4. The tour typically includes two or three stops with lunch and guest speakers.

The following members volunteered to be on the working group that will organize this event:

F. WORK PROGRAM

A. Cheema
C. Redekop
J. Caldarella
A. Smith
B. Holmes

2. Building Relations with Agriculture Community

M. Gunn commented that one of the recommendations from the Future of Farming Task Force was:

> *Building relationships with the Township farming community to expand the promotion of agriculture.*

As a result, the 2023 AAEEC workplan includes the following item:

> *Initiate the preparation of a workplan for building relationships with the Township Farming community to expand the promotion of agriculture.*

The committee was broken out into four groups to discuss the following questions:

1. How does the Township build relationships/connections?
    - Connect with farming sectors
    - Provide a no-cost licence for membership with the Langley Farmers Institute and the Township of Langley
    - Have a local group for farmers
    - Amalgamate all of the agriculture committees
    - Have more open houses
    - Create a Farmgate app
    - Have a local Farmers Market network
    - Build trust and relationships
    - Round table discussions
    - Promote the TOL Agriculture Planner position
    - Connect with Realtors

2. With whom? What groups?
    - Commodity groups
    - Realtors
    - Farmers' Institute
    - Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation
    - Restaurants
    - Wineries
    - Breweries
    - Schools

3. Strategy to start?
    - Create a task force or working group

F. WORK PROGRAM

4. Methods of reaching out/connecting?
    - Start a database
    - Outreach to user groups
    - Make sure the information is easy to understand (terminology explained etc).
    - Provide information in multiple languages
    - Have active engagement instead of passive engagement
    - Engage with the non-ag community.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Chamber of Commerce Update

C. Redekop reported that the Chamber is working on an Advocacy Portfolio and is also working with the province to create a policy regarding the Employer Health Tax and agriculture seasonal workers, who currently cannot benefit from this tax.

2. Farmer's Institute Update

A. Smith reported that the Institute has been receiving many inquires regarding housing, and that the Farm Newsletter is sent out on the 15th of each month by email.

3. AAEEC Photo

A photo was taken of the committee for the Township website.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2023
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by U. Tayyab,
Seconded by A.J. Cheema,
That the meeting terminate at 8:48pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair