Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 7:00pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

M I N U T E S

Present:
J. Caldarella, Community Co-Chair

C. Allison, B. Holmes, A. Smith, T. Taylor, and U. Tayyab

Guests:
M. Dykeman, BC 4H Ambassador representative for the Fraser Valley
A. Porohowski, BC 4H, Langley
D. Smith, BC Land Program Manager
F. Hui, Land Matcher, Metro Vancouver – Fraser Valley
C. Keys, Langley Regional Agrologist for Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLES

J. Caldarella acknowledged the Traditional Territories of the Coast Salish Peoples.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - May 24, 2023

Moved by U. Tayyab,
Seconded by C. Allison,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the May 24, 2023 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - April 26, 2023

Moved by B. Holmes,
Seconded by T. Taylor,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the April 26, 2023 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Langley 4-H

M. Dykeman, BC 4H Ambassador representative for the Fraser Valley, provided an overview of the 4-H program. The following information was provided:

What is 4-H?

- 4-H is a youth development organization that focuses on leadership and communication. 4-H has it roots in agriculture and agriculture still plays a role.

4-H in Langley

- There are 69 4-H members and 24 leaders in Langley.
- There are 5 4-H clubs in Langley.
- The projects include: beef, poultry, llama, gardening, rabbits, foods, goat, photography, textiles, dog, outdoor living, and Cloverbuds.
- Different clubs in Langley offer different projects.

Cloverbud Project

- Uses the same hands-on learning style of traditional 4-H but adapts it in a way that is fun and engaging for kids aged 6-8.

How 4-H Works

- 4-H members are given opportunities to develop leadership skills through 4-H Canada's four leadership pillars:
    - Community Engagement & Communications
    - Science & Technology
    - Environment & Health Living
    - Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security

Challenges for 4-H in Langley

- Declining enrolment – covid, urbanization;
- Misunderstanding related to 4-H (i.e. they offer more than just animal projects);
- Lack of volunteers (i.e., chaperones, leaders, etc.)

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

How can the Township assist 4-H?

- Volunteer and recruitment assistance;
- Providing an after-school, non-animal 4-H program at a community centre or community garden. Perhaps the Recreation department could help in this regard.

2. Young Agrarians

D. Smith, BC Land Program Manager, and F. Hui, Land Matcher, Metro Vancouver – Fraser Valley, provided an overview of the Young Agrarians program and the Land Matching Program. The following information was provided:

Young Agrarians is the largest education resource network for new and young ecological farmers in Canada.

Young Agrarians Grow-A-Farmer Program Pillars:

- Online engagement;
- Education events;
- Apprenticeship training;
- Land access and transition; and
- Business mentorships.

Impact in 2022:

- Worked with 2,000 farmers;
- 1,600 Farms;
- 630 Landholders; and
- 260 organizations.

BC Land Matching Program

- Personalized, hands-on land matching that connects farmers with landholders.

Land matching goals:

- Agricultural succession;
- Economic development; and
- Rural revitalization.

Land matching in Fraser Valley:

- 60 matches
- 223.37 acres
- 25% of BC-wide matches

Land matching in Langley:

- 10 matches
- 86.62 acres
- Langley = 15% of total Metro Vancouver matches
- Langley acres matched = 39% of Metro Vancouver matched acres.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Land Matching Challenges:

- Climate change means farmers will continue to have tough seasons;
- Rising costs of inputs, insurance etc. increase difficulty of navigating start-up;
- Limited and expensive housing supply on and near farmland; and
- Current farmers looking to retire increasingly need succession planning support.

Opportunities:

- Keep building inventory of quality land opportunities and explore ways to attract famers to the region;
- Outreach, networking, and education – opportunities to collaborate; and
- Continue to develop wrap-around supports for farmers (land matching, grants, operating loans, training, mentorships).

3. Langley Farmers' Institute (LFI)

A. Smith, LFI Chair, provided an overview of the Langley Farmers' Institute. The following information is provided:

Farmers' Institutes in British Columbia were incorporated or continued under the Farmers' and Women Institutes Act in 1956.

How Institutes work with all levels of government:

- Collaborate with local municipal governments to increase farm awareness, and support farmers within city bylaws and assist with understandings and information;
- Work with provincial governmental bodies to work on funding for farmers, clarify regulations, and in many cases, advocate for farmers issues;
- Acknowledge the federal government branches to understand localized statues and commodity group guidelines, to assist with questions.

The Langley Farmers' Institute was formed in early 2020. Much work has been done to support local farmers since then.

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

No reports.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Farm Tour Update

M. Gunn reported that the Equestrian theme is confirmed, and the itinerary is nearly complete. The starting location will be the Aldergrove Fieldhouse. Final details will be emailed to the attendees shortly.

2. Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force Update

M. Gunn reported that the Task Force and Terms of Reference were approved by Council.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Chamber of Commerce Update

No report.

2. Farmer's Institute Update

No report.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Location: Farm Tour
Time: TBD

J. TERMINATE

Moved by U. Tayyab,
Seconded by C. Allison,
That the meeting terminate at 8:50pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair