AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 7:00pm
Nicomekl Meeting Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

A G E N D A

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLES

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A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - October 25, 2023

Recommendation that the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the October 25, 2023 meeting.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES and RECEIPT OF NOTES

1-5 **1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - May 24, 2023**

Recommendation that the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the May 24, 2023 meeting.

6-10 **2. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - September 27, 2023**

Recommendation that the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee receive the Notes of the September 27, 2023 meeting.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Fraser Delta Farmland Stewardship Working Group

I. Smith, Uplands Consulting

2. Aldergrove Food System Project

M. Gunn, Agriculture Planner, Community and Policy Planning

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D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force Update

Recommended Motion:
That the AAEEC receive and endorse the recommendation of the Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force to co-host the November 4, 2023 "Small lot living: explore composting and make connections" workshop with the Langley Sustainable Agricultural Foundation to build relationships with the agriculture/rural community.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

The following motion was referred at the May 29, 2023 Regular Council Meeting to the AAEEC:

1. *Agricultural MAWA Bylaw Reform*

Moved by Councillor Rindt,
Seconded by Councillor Martens,
Whereas:

1. *The Township of Langley is one of the richest agricultural areas in Canada and home to nearly half of all farms in Metro Vancouver, over 1,000 farms;*

2. *The 2015 Agricultural Viability Strategy endorsed by Council contains the vision that "The Township of Langley supports agriculture while fostering and encouraging sustainable and viable production" and "Farmers are respected and appreciated for their contributions to the community and its citizens"; and*

3. *It is prudent to support the agricultural community with ongoing reform and modernization of applicable bylaws and regulations from time to time;*

Therefore be it resolved that Council hereby refers to the Agriculture Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee to:

A. *Potentially conduct consultation within the agricultural community regarding the Migrant Agricultural Worker Accommodation municipal requirements; and*

B. *Work with staff to forward to Council for its consideration, prior to the end of 2023, bylaw and/or policy amendments as may be required to:*

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G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

1. *align Township of Langley bylaws with provincial and federal legislation, as appropriate for Council to consider; and*
2. *reform outdated administrative requirements or other processes with amendments to Zoning Bylaw 1987 Section 201.5 regarding the Migrant Agricultural Worker Accommodation to assist the agricultural and farming community.*

CARRIED

Recommended Motion:

That the AAEEC recommend that Council extend the date of the Migrant Agricultural Workers Accommodation bylaw and/or policy amendments until the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has concluded their consultation and update of the Temporary Farm Workers Housing in the ALR.
That Council request the Ministry of Agriculture and Food host an engagement event in the Township of Langley as the Township of Langley accounts for a large amount of the land in the ALR in Metro Vancouver.

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Chamber of Commerce Update

2. Farmer's Institute Update

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, November 22, 2023
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

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

Township of Langley

Est. 1873

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 7:00pm
Nicomekl Meeting Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

NOTES

Present:
Councillor Michael Pratt, Council Co-Chair

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

Guests:
G. Bartle, Land Use Planner, Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Via Zoom)

Staff:
M. Gunn, Planner, Community and Policy Planning
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

As no quorum was present, Notes only were taken.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLES

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - September 27, 2023

The Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee received the agenda and receive the agenda items of the September 27, 2023 meeting.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

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

The Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee received the Minutes of the May 24, 2023 meeting.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. G. Bartle, Land Use Planner, Ministry of Agriculture and Food

G. Bartle provided a presentation on the Ministers' Bylaw Standards (MBS). The following information was provided:

What are MBS?

- Section 551 of the Local Government Act states that the Agriculture Minister may set standards for farm bylaws for the guidance of local governments in preparation of zoning bylaws and farm bylaws.
- Local government plans and bylaws have a critical role to play in creating a stable environment for the farming community.
- There is tremendous potential to expand the province's agricultural output.
- Agriculture is a significant contributor to BC's economy.
- Agriculture support BC jobs and family businesses.
- Food security is more important than ever, especially in our climate crisis.

What is the provincial interest?

- Protecting BC's present and future agriculture resource base for food production and other farming uses.
- Ensuring that farming and aquaculture receive fair and consistent treatment in local government planning and bylaw processes.
- Protecting farmers and aquaculturalists operating under "normal farm practices" from unwarranted nuisance suits or court injunctions and encouraging compatibility between farming and other land uses to reduce conflicts.

MBS details:

- Includes 10 themes established over the years since 1996.
- Themes are an attempt to strike a balance across the province that meets the needs of all stakeholders.
- Are for local government bylaws affecting farming areas.
- Include subjects on: zoning designations, permitted uses, minimum lot sizes, temporary farm worker housing, setbacks, siting and size of residential uses, off-street loading and parking etc.
- Updates are coming regarding cannabis production and temporary farm worker housing.
- The Township of Langley is a regulated "Right to Farm" (RTF) local government.
- Being RTF regulated gives local governments unique powers, however, it requires that the Minister of Agriculture and Food approve each bylaw.
- The RTF Act protects a farm business from farm practice nuisance complaints regarding noise, odour, and other disturbances under certain conditions. It also protects a farm business in a farming area from local government nuisance and animal control bylaws.
- Three "Farm Bylaw Standards" have been developed for RTF regulated local governments: Mushroom Farms and On-Farm Composting, Audible Bird Scare Devices, and Edge Planning.

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Farm Tour Report

B. Holmes provided a brief report on the Farm Tour held in June. Please see Attachment A.

M. Gunn noted that there was an article in Langley Advance Times as well as Saddle Up Magazine regarding the tour. She reported that the feedback received was positive and further provided a summary of the comments received during the networking time at the beginning of the tour.

2. Building Agricultural/Rural Connections Task Force Update

A workshop is being held on November 4 at the George Preston Recreation Centre from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The theme is “Small lot living: explore composting and make connections”.

Action: Deferred to October meeting.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

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Whereas:

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G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

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B. Work with staff to forward to Council for its consideration, prior to the end of 2023, bylaw and/or policy amendments as may be required to:

1. align Township of Langley bylaws with provincial and federal legislation, as appropriate for Council to consider; and
2. reform outdated administrative requirements or other processes with amendments to Zoning Bylaw 1987 Section 201.5 regarding the Migrant Agricultural Worker Accommodation to assist the agricultural and farming community.

CARRIED

Deferred to October meeting.

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Chamber of Commerce Update

No update.

2. Farmers' Institute Update

A. Smith reported that the Institute is preparing to provide comments on the Township of Langley becoming a de-regulated community.

3. Brainstorming

The committee spent time brainstorming ideas for a "one-pager" on the Township website for Building Agriculture.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2023
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

The meeting terminated at 9:00pm.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair