AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 7:06pm
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

J. Green, A. Hamer, R. Ross, A. Smith, and B. Venechuk

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

Guest:
N. Marples, Executive Director, Langley Environmental Partners Society

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 Committee – February 26, 2025

Moved by B. Venechuk,
Seconded by J. Green,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the February 26, 2025 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee – January 29, 2025

Moved by R. Ross,
Seconded by A. Smith,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the January 29, 2025 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Langley Environmental Partners Society

N. Marples, Executive Director, provided a presentation, on behalf of the Historic Berry Community Farm Coalition, regarding a draft concept for the Historic Berry Community Farm. The Coalition is composed of: The Langley Environmental Partners Society, Encompass Support Services Society, Foodlands Cooperative of BC and Langley Meals on Wheels. The farm is located at 21025, 21151 and 21193 Old Yale Road in Murrayville on approximately 55 acres. The following information was provided:

History and Context:

- Originally owned and farmed by the JW Berry Family.
- Purchased by the Township of Langley in 2018.
- Has numerous outbuildings and an onsite caretaker.
- Underutilized agricultural capacity.
- The Historic Berry Community Fam Coalition has been meeting to advance its proposed concept for the property

The Concept:

- A community legacy celebrating the rich heritage of agriculture in the Township, providing educational and experiential opportunities for citizens, promoting local agriculture, supporting new farmers, addressing food insecurity, and building a sustainable food system for the Township.
- Cultivate an engaging community space where residents of all ages come together to build relationships around food, community gatherings and events.
- Care for the land, encourage farming in an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible way, focus on small-scale regenerative methods that encourage biodiversity, soil building, pollinator protection, and cultural heritage.
- Create opportunities for community members to have equal access to fresh produce and the knowledge of how to produce it themselves.

Proposed Elements-Phase Approach:

- Engage classrooms and community in food systems learning and action.
- Support new entrant farmers, showcase small scale agri-business, and production of local food.
- Provide space for cultivating traditional medicines and food crops.

This proposal aligns with a number of the Township's plans and strategies including:

- Sustainability Charter
- Official Community Plan
- Agricultural Viability Strategy
- Heritage Strategy
- Climate Action Strategy

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There are several possible funding opportunities with local organizations and businesses.

Action: Committee members to consider this proposal and come to the next meeting with feedback and a potential endorsement.

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

No reports.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. 2025 Work Program

The draft work program was presented based on suggestions and feedback provided at the last meeting. The following members volunteered to be on the Farm Tour Working Group:

J. Caldarella
A. Hamer
B. Venechuk

MOTION
Moved by B. Venechuk,
Seconded by A. Hamer,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee endorse the draft 2025 Work Program, as amended.
CARRIED

COUNCIL
Moved by R. Ross,
Seconded by J. Green,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council approve the Agricultural Advisory Committee draft 2025 Work Program, presented as Attachment A.
CARRIED

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Farmers' Institute Update

A. Smith reported that the Meet and Greet for rural residents and farmers took place on February 24 and was a successful event. It gave farmers the opportunity to discuss common issues, including water usage and the strain on aquifers, and access to grants and other funding. The next event will take place in August and Council will be invited to attend. Members are being reminder to renew their membership for $10 per year.

2. AAC Photo

Deferred to next month.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by J. Green,
Seconded by B. Venechuk,
That the meeting terminate at 8:36pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair

Attachment A

Agricultural Advisory Committee
2025 Work Program

The Agricultural Advisory Committee proposes to undertake the following work in 2025 consistent with the Committee's purpose and mandate. Calendar months show the time and duration of the work.

Project & Associated Tasks	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Agricultural Viability Strategy (AVS) Provide advice, support, input and direction in the implementation of the AVS.			√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
2.1.2 *Update the Agriculture Profile* Based on data from 2021 Census of Agriculture and Ministry of Agriculture Land Use Inventory.			O	O	O	O						
2.1.3 *Support partnerships with other organizations* Invite the following to make a presentation to the committee: • Langley 4-H Club • Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation • Buy BC • Ministry of Agriculture and Food • TOL Transportation and Mobility Strategy • Metro Vancouver			√	√	√				√	√	√	
2.1.4 *Promotion of Agriculture and 2.1.11 Agri-Tourism* Review TOL practices to promote agriculture and encourage agri-tourism.			√	√	√				√	√	√	
2.2.8 *Farms on ALR* Identify TOL land inventory in the ALR and potential to lease to farmers.				√	√				√	√	√	
Farm Tour Plan and host the Annual Farm Tour; late spring working with the Heritage Advisory Committee.				√	√	√						
Consider or inquire into matters as requested by Council Respond to requests as they arise.		√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√

Key:

√ = Committee-led, Council initiative
O = On-going initiative, based on staff work programs and respective strategies