AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 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
Councillor M. Pratt, Council Co-Chair

C. Allison, J. Green, A. Hamer, O. Smid, A. Smith, and B. Venechuk

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

Guests:
N. Marples, Executive Director, Langley Environmental Partners Society
M. Sachse, President, Langley Sustainable Agricultural Foundation

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 – March 26, 2025

Moved by J. Green,
Seconded by A. Smith,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the March 26, 2025 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee – February 26, 2025

Moved by B. Venechuk,
Seconded by J. Green,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the February 26, 2025 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation

M. Sachse provided an overview of the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation (LSAF). He noted that LSAF was established in 2011 and its purpose is to build capacity and knowledge of agriculture in Langley. The group meets on the last Tuesday of every month and will be having the following presentations:

- Hay – April 29
- Land leasing options – May 27
- Optimal feed for ruminants – June 24
- Grants and grant writing – November 25

LSAF holds an annual workshop, which has had many different themes over the years. The theme for 2025 is “Water Harvesting and Greywater Use”.

LSAF provides grants of up to $2,000 for on-farm projects related to environmental sustainability.

LSAF developed the Langley Learning Farm at Derek Doubleday Arboretum in 2019 and renewed its licence agreement with the Township in 2025. Students in the Langley School District get hands-on experience learning the basics of food crop production, the agriculture system that brings food to their tables, and stewardship of the environment. Last year, over 700 students went through the program.

A mini forest was planted in 2023 based on the Miyawaki method of restoring biodiversity in cities. 29 fruit trees have been planted in the Food Forest that runs along the top of the berm that runs parallel to the Fraser Highway.

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

No reports.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Promotion of Agriculture and Agri-Tourism

Staff reviewed the Township of Langley Sign Bylaw No. 4927 in response to questions raised at the last meeting regarding signage on farms promoting their products. Section 4.2 of the bylaw states that signs may be erected on any lot in a rural zone without a sign permit provided that:

F. WORK PROGRAM

a) The Signs must only advertise farm produce for sale on a Farm within the Township;
b) The advertised produce must have been grown on the subject Farm;
c) A maximum of two on-site Signs shall be permitted on each Street on which the Farm borders;
d) No Sign may exceed 3 m^2 (32.3 ft^2) in Area;
e) Signs may not be Erected more than seven days prior to the advertised product being ready for sale;
f) Signs shall be removed at the end of the harvest season or within two days of ceasing to sell the produce being harvested, whichever comes first, and
g) Notwithstanding sub-sections 4.2 5) f) and g), no Sign may remain in place for more than 90 days in any calendar year.

Farm Tour

J. Caldarella reported that the working group, consisting of members from the Agricultural Advisory Committee and Heritage Advisory Committee, met to discuss the Farm Tour to be held on June 25, 2025. The theme will be "Then, Now and Into the Future". The locations, food, and guest speakers are still to be confirmed. It was agreed to do a networking portion at the beginning of the tour.

G. ITEMS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

1. Historic Berry Community Farm

The committee discussed the draft concept of a community farm on the Historic Berry Farm site, as presented at the February meeting, and stated their support for the concept.

MOTION
Moved by A. Hamer,
Seconded by B. Venechuk,
That the Agricultural Advisory Committee endorse, in principle, the proposed use of the Historic Berry Community Farm to provide educational and experiential opportunities for the community, promote local agriculture, support new farmers, address food insecurity, and build a sustainable food system.
CARRIED

H. COUNCIL REFERRALS

I. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Farmers' Institute Update

A. Smith reported that they will be providing feedback on specific Township Bylaws and that a representative from the equestrian community will be joining the Board. The Board is looking for others to join. The next event will be the Mingler in August.

2. AAC Photo

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

J. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00 pm

K. TERMINATE

Moved by O. Smid,
Seconded by B. Venechuk,
That the meeting terminate at 8:53pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair