

# AMENDED

## DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Commission

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 4:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Chair	B. Brennan
Members	H. Crawford
	B. Dunic
	I. Mishchenko
	N. Schafer
	J. Von Kaldenberg
Council Liaison	P. Chandler
Staff Liaison	C. Kingsley
Recording Secretary	L. Coburn

**ABSENT:**

A. Scoones  
B. Hughes  
R. Kline

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

### ADOPTION OF AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

I. Mishchenko adds a report by the Bylaw Subcommittee under **New Business**.

MOVED BY: J. Von Kaldenberg

SECONDED: I. Mishchenko

1-AAC THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried by unanimous consent

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I. Mishchenko requested that resolution 13-AAC be amended as follows:

13-AAC That staff prepares a complete and accurate report of all compliance issues for the property at 9645 West Saanich Road for release to the Agricultural Advisory Commission, Council and the Agricultural Land Commission.

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MOVED BY: J. Von Kaldenberg  
SECONDED: H. Crawford

2-AAC THAT the minutes of the December 4, 2008 meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Commission be approved as amended.

Carried by unanimous consent

## CORRESPONDENCE

### **A. Letter from the Minister of Agriculture**

The Chair expressed sadness at the death of Minister S. Hagan. Members requested the Commission Secretary obtain additional copies of the Growing Together newsletter for distribution to Council.

MOVED BY: H. Crawford  
SECONDED: B. Dunic

3-AAC THAT the correspondence be received.

Carried by unanimous consent

### **B. Email from C. Moroziuk regarding extension of funding for the Agricultural Area Plan**

C. Kingsley explains that the funds have been earmarked and are available to the Commission.

### **C. Provincial Agricultural Advisory Commission Conference in Nanaimo**

A sign up sheet was circulated for members to express interest in attending and car-pooling was discussed.

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A. Report from Council Liaison on council discussions relevant to the Agricultural Advisory Commission and votes on recommendations to Council from the Commission:

- a) Housing Strategy;
- b) Approval of creation of North Saanich Flavour Trail subcommittee chaired by N. Schafer;
- c) North Saanich Food Charter adopted.

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Councillor Chandler reported on adoption of the Commission's recommendation regarding the Housing Strategy, the North Saanich Flavour Trail subcommittee and the North Saanich Food Charter. He reported that interviews for Commission appointments were underway.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **A. Agricultural Land Commission decision regarding 9645 West Saanich Road**

Members of the Commission expressed concern that they had not received full disclosure from staff in reports or through the Freedom of Information process. Members also expressed concern that certain information had not been released to the Agricultural Advisory Commission. Of particular concern was information for which no written record had been made.

Members were asked if their concerns are with the internal process or the decision rendered by the Agricultural Land Commission. Members expressed concern with both issues. Some members expressed the belief that new information received pursuant to the motion (as amended) adopted at the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting, may result in Council wishing to reconsider its earlier decision not to forward the report of the Agricultural Advisory Commission to the Agricultural Land Commission. Specifically, members of the Commission wished to clearly itemize what is expected from staff in the report for the non-farm application for 9645 West Saanich Road:

1. All complaints and inspections of the site for all reasons including building permits, unauthorized industrial activities, etc.
2. Composting – potential issue of not having required approval from the Ministry of the Environment.
3. Composting – potential issue of not having required approval from the Capital Regional District.
4. BC Assessment issue – land taxed as bona fide farm during time of land use as non-farm use.
5. Discussion between T. Olsen and building inspector re: inspection visits in the 2000-2007 timeframe.
7. Recent Section 57 filing against property.

MOVED BY: B. Brennan  
SECONDED: N. Schafer

4-AAC THAT the Agricultural Advisory Commission recommends that Council direct the AAC to revisit the 9645 West Saanich Road application upon receipt from the administration of the information requested December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Carried by unanimous consent

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## **B. Agricultural Area Plan Proposal**

Members asked staff about the procurement and proposed evaluation process and requested a copy of the request for proposal by next week so that they can meet and discuss the RFP before the next meeting. It was agreed that the Statement of Work is critical and that it should not be drafted without input from the Commission.

The Commission unanimously decided not to extend an invitation to any consultants who have approached the Commission before the RFP is released.

The Commission decided that members would all consider language for a mission statement. Drafts and comments were to be forwarded to the Commission Secretary.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities**

The Commission had no resolutions to forward to Council.

### **B. Cage Free Eggs**

The discussion on cage free eggs was postponed until next month's meeting in order that B. Hughes can be present.

### **C. School Gardens**

Commission members discussed developing a Peninsula wide program to teach children gardening skills in their neighbourhood schools. Funding, perhaps from an organization such as Coast Capital, should be looked into. A member noted that Lifecycles and the federal government have plans in place and these should be reviewed to avoid duplication.

### **D. Bylaw Subcommittee**

The subcommittee seeks some guidance from staff as to what is to be done, how the subcommittee is to report, and whether staff resources are available. Thus far the subcommittee has reviewed the list of bylaws in order to consider which ones deal with agricultural issues. Also discussed was whether some of the subcommittee's work should be included in the Agricultural Area Statement of Work.

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## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: N. Schafer  
SECONDED: H. Crawford

5-AAC        THAT the meeting be adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Carried by unanimous consent

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Chair