

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Agricultural Advisory Commission**

April 9th, 2009 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Chair B. Brennan
Members H. Crawford
T. Izard
J. Thornburgh
J. von Kaldenberg
R. Kline

ABSENT

Council Liaison A. Scoones
B. Dunic
B. Green
B. Hughes
N. Schafer
Staff Liaison C. Kingsley
Director, Development and Community Services T. Olsen
Recording Secretary L. Coburn

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

15-AAC THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

MOVED BY: B. Brennan
SECONDED: J. von Kaldenberg

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16-AAC THAT H. Crawford be nominated Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Commission.

CARRIED

There being no further nominations, H. Crawford was declared Vice-Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

17-AAC THAT the minutes of the March 5th, 2009 meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Commission be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

WELCOME TO LIAISONS

The Chair welcomed T. Izard, the liaison from the Advisory Planning Commission, and J. Thornburgh, the liaison from Environmental Advisory Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Scoones reported on behalf of Councillor Green the resolution regarding agriculture that was passed at the recent Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities conference:

“B.C. spends 3.3% of its provincial budget on agriculture compared to the national average of 16.4%, therefore, be it resolved that the Provincial Government increase financial support (for) Agriculture consistent with the national average and cease approving any further ALR exclusions.”

Also passed was a resolution that called for action from the AVICC to deal with “B.C. farm assessment policy criteria and its very negative impact on small farming operations across Vancouver Island.”

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

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9645 West Saanich Road

For the benefit of new members, the Chair gave a brief summary of the issues of concern to the AAC regarding the soil mixing operation at 9645 West Saanich Road. Councillor Scoones reported on the motion requesting a temporary use permit requested by the ALC.

The Director of Development and Community Services advised that a public hearing will be necessary for the temporary use application.

The Chair asked about how the temporary use would be monitored. The Director of Development and Community Services noted that there have never been any formal bylaw complaints regarding soil mixing activity on the property.

Guest Cottages

Councillor Scoones reported final adoption of bylaw 1198 allowing guest cottages on some properties.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Agricultural Area Plan clarification of roles

The Director of Development and Community Planning reviewed the role of the consultant and her role as the project officer and provided members with a copy of the Agricultural Area Plan contract.

She also explained that the role of the Commission as the project team was to provide input and feedback as requested by the consultant but that members should not be contacting the consultant directly about contractual arrangements nor assigning him work.

The Chair expressed her concern about the venue for one of the public consultations. The Director advised that this type of administrative issue should be dealt with by her, not the consultant.

A discussion ensued about alternate venues. The suitability of other venues is made more difficult because after the general open house, attendees will be placed into groups of eight to work with a facilitator. This requires round tables and sufficient space to allow for conversation without cross-contamination.

Commission members then discussed food options for the open house which would feature North Saanich produce and products. It was suggested that members might wish to contact the group promoting a North Saanich Farmers Market for assistance.

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B. Flavour Trail

The members discussed available financing from the province and the District of North Saanich.

The Manager of Corporate Services advised the members that final budget approval should occur shortly.

Sarah Hughes has offered to coordinate the 2009 North Saanich Flavour Trail. Members will request an interim report from her for the May meeting.

MOVED BY: H. Crawford
SECONDED: J. Thornburgh

18-AAC THAT the Agricultural Advisory Commission recommends to Council that Sarah Hughes coordinate the 2009 North Saanich Flavour Trail.

CARRIED

Members also discussed the inclusion of restaurants in the Flavour Trail. While several restaurants in Sidney have expressed interest in participating, it was decided to limit participation to only North Saanich businesses.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Controlling Invasive Plant Species in North Saanich

R. Kline advised members that there is a provincial Coastal Invasive Plant Committee funded by the provincial government.

Members asked if the District of North Saanich has a noxious weed bylaw, which it does.

B. June Food Roundtable

Councillor Scoones advised members that the CR-FAIR Food Roundtable would take place at Glamorgan Farm June 16 at 11:00 a.m.

C. Orientation Meeting April 14, 2009

The Chair reminded members of the meeting with Rob Roycroft on Tuesday.

D. Invitation to North Saanich Farmers

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The Chair and Vice-Chair advised members that they had made arrangements with the Chalet Estate Vineyard to host an evening presentation by Brent Warner titled "The Changing Face of Agriculture." The Chair indicated that there was a list of approximately 100 farmers they wished to invite to hear the presentation by Mr. Warner. As well they intended to tell the farmers about the Agricultural Area Plan and the opportunities to provide input to the process.

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

19-AAC THAT the Agricultural Advisory Commission recommends to Council that the AAC sponsor an evening meeting for farmers at the Chalet Estate Vineyard May 14, 2009 with a special video presentation by Brent Warner and that invitations be issued to all North Saanich farmers.

CARRIED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

May 7th, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: J. von Kaldenberg
SECONDED" J. Thornburgh

20-AAC THAT the meeting be adjourned 5:44 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair