

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Agricultural Advisory Commission

September 3, 2009 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

	Chair	B. Brennan
	Members	H. Crawford
		B. Dunic
		B. Hughes
		T. Izard
		N. Schafer
		J. Thornburgh
		J. von Kaldenberg
		R. Kline
	Council Liaison	A. Scoones
	Manager, Corporate Services	C. Kingsley
	Director, Development and Community Services	T. Olsen
	Recording Secretary	K. Albucz for L. Coburn

Also In Attendance Dr. Sue McTaggart

ABSENT

Member B. Greene

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Addition to the agenda under item 4A (b); A. Scoones UBCM Resolution.
Ted Izard will need to leave before 5:00 pm and asked to be excused.

MOVED BY: J. von Kaldenberg

SECONDED: J. Thornburgh

27-AAC That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED by u/c

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2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOVED BY: J. Thornburgh
SECONDED: B. Hughes

28-AAC That the minutes of the June 4, 2009 Agricultural Advisory Commission be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: H. Crawford
SECONDED: J. Thornburgh

29-AAC That the minutes of the July 2, 2009 Agricultural Advisory Commission be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED by u/c

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Invitation from Bob Thompson of Central Saanich for the Harvest Feast. See email. 10 Km dinner to be served. Question – how to increase participation from local farms. B. Brennan suggested to post on DNS website.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

Use of McTavish School for Agriplex (157-COW)

Councilor Scoones reported that she has been trying to contact Jim McPherson or Derek Masselink to discuss the Agriplex proposal. B. Brennan inquired about status of the letter from Council to be sent to the School District in regard to leasing the McTavish School site. T. Olsen advised that a letter has been sent.

OCP Information

Council had discussed a new clause that Central Saanich has added to their OCP regarding ALR Land. The new clause proposes that ALR land should not be considered to be sub-divided. A. Scoones suggested that it may be something that the Commission would like to bring forward to Council to consider.

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UBCM Resolution B144-Food Security and Education

A. Scoones read aloud the following resolution that will be heard at the upcoming UBCM Convention from the AAC:

Whereas there is a growing need for food security and local food production and there is an increasing need for community space to grow food

And Whereas there is no mandated elementary school curriculum for local agriculture, food production and school gardens

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government for a change to the elementary school curriculum to include local food production, food security and school gardens.

The resolution was not presented at the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities.

UBCM Resolutions Committee did recommend endorsement of North Saanich resolution.

The Resolution Committee also noticed the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government change elementary school curriculum to include local food production, food security and school gardens.

Testing for E. Coli in Deep Cove/Pat Bay

Councilor Scoones will be bringing a notice of motion to Council asking to have e. coli levels in the Deep Cove/Pat Bay waters tested to determine the source of the elevated bacterial counts. The motion will be discussed by Council at the upcoming September 14th or 21st, 2009 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Flavour Trail

B. Hughes reported that the event was very successful. Everyone who participated felt it was well attended. The lavender farm had a great day with over 1000 participants. There has been a significant increase in interest over the past years. There was no feedback form prepared for the event. When asked, most participants had found out about the event through the Times Colonist newspaper. B. Brennan requested a financial report for the event to be submitted. N. Schafer reported that the Times Colonist was interested in sponsoring next year's event. Transportation was another issue raised by participants as you needed a vehicle to get from venue to venue. BC Transit could be approached for next year's event to see if some kind of transport could be arranged. T. Olsen had been contacted by BC Wine & Dine publication who

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would like to feature an article about this event next year. N. Schafer stated the need for at least 10 – 15 volunteer organizers for this event. B. Brennan said that the Commission will need to do a phone around as there weren't any sign up sheets for participants circulated at the event.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Referral 290: Food Security Correspondence from D. Friend

MOVED: H. Crawford

SECONDED: B. Dunic

30-AAC To refer this item to the next AAC meeting.

CARRIED by u/c

T. Izard left the meeting at 4:30 pm

B. Referral 153-COW: 1700 McTavish Road Referral 414-Council

Dr. Sue McTaggart was invited to the table to discuss her rezoning application. Dr. McTaggart explained her need for a larger facility to allow for the training of veterinarians and assistants at the facility. Dr. McTaggart stated that there would be very little change to the appearance of the property and it is her intent to maintain the residential appearance. There was some concern by one neighbour regarding the rezoning to C5 as it allows future commercial enterprises to move onto the property if Dr. McTaggart sells the property.

The Commission also noted that there is an intent to build a new house at the back of the property. H. Crawford asked if there would be a requirement for a split zoning classification for the property. Dr. McTaggart confirmed that it would be a split zoning but not a sub-division. The septic has been assessed as healthy and able to withstand the proposed commercial use. Dr. McTaggart also stated that no pharmaceuticals would be allowed to enter the septic system.

T. Olsen presented further information regarding the technical aspects of the rezoning application to the Commission and answered questions regarding the implications of the rezoning in this area. T. Olsen stated that there are very few properties zoned A3 and that most are in this area. T. Olsen also stated that the Development Permit would control the form and character of the development based on the plans that Dr. McTaggart presented to the Commission. T. Olsen noted that page 2 of the staff report to Council had been amended to remove the reference to equine dentistry as Dr. McTaggart performs dentistry on all kinds of animals. An amended page 2 will be distributed to the Commission members.

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With no further questions of Dr. McTaggart, she returned to her seat.

The Commission further discussed the merit of Dr. McTaggart's business moving to this location and found no impediments to the surrounding agricultural operations or any objections to her rezoning application. The Commission felt that they could support her application for rezoning.

B. Brennan thanked Dr. McTaggart for attending.

C. Temporary Farm Worker Housing (deferred from June)

The Commission received the report and will review for comment.

D. Date of the next Agricultural Area Plan Team meeting

T. Olsen reported that Derek Masselink should have the rough draft of the report ready by September 8, 2009. The draft will be available for Commission Members review only, and is not intended for public release at this time. The Commission requested T. Olsen to investigate the terms of the contract with D. Masselink to determine the parameters surrounding contacting participants for feedback. None of the Commission members have been contacted to date.

E. Distribution of Agricultural Area Plan material for review by Commission

T. Olsen will email a copy of the draft plan once she receives it from D. Masselink.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on September 17, 2009 at 3:30 pm in the Blue Heron Room. This will be a special meeting with Derek Masselink.

The next regular meeting will be October 1, 2009 4:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

B. Brennan
Chair