

*SUBJECT TO ADOPTION*  
**Minutes of the meeting of  
DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Held Thursday, July 03, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Members	B. Brennan H. Crawford B. Dunic R. Kline
	Chair	A. Finall
	Co-Council Liaison	A. Scoones
	Recording Secretary	V. Stefani
<b>ALSO ATTENDING:</b>		Chris Sigurdson & Heather Martman, applicants
<b>REGRETS:</b>		N. Schafer
	Environmental Advisory Liaison	J. Von Kaldenberg
	Co-Council Liaison	S. Fea B. Hughes I. Mishchenko

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**INTRODUCTIONS AND CALL TO ORDER**

A. Finall called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY:** H. Crawford  
**SECONDED:** B. Brennan

THAT the minutes of the meeting held June 19, 2008 be adopted with the following changes:

1. each instance of "I. Mishchenko's document" amended to "Summary of Comment";
2. Cage Free Eggs – change reference to density of "the number of birds within a certain space."

**CARRIED**

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

The agenda for the July 03, 2008 meeting was approved with the deletion of the discussion of main issues to be considered in the North Saanich Agricultural Area Plan.

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2008**

The Commission discussed funding for the North Saanich Flavour Trail. A. Scoones advised the Spirit Committee moved to allocate \$2,200 surplus funding back into general revenue, and

that it be re-allocated to the Flavour Trail. A. Finall advised she will follow up with the Director of Finance.

## **DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF NORTH SAANICH AGRICULTURAL TASK FORCE**

B. Brennan and H. Crawford had served on the Agricultural Task Force. The group reviewed and discussed the final report of the Task Force. A. Finall advised that the APC had begun reviewing Zoning Bylaw No. 750 at their last meeting. Members felt that it is important for the AAC to also begin a review.

R. Kline entered the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

**MOVED BY: B. Brennan**  
**SECONDED: B. Dunic**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Commission requests Council to direct the Commission to commence review of Zoning Bylaw No. 750 as it relates to agriculture.

**CARRIED**

A discussion arose regarding the North Saanich food charter, and the Recording Secretary was requested to circulate copy of the draft food charter prior to the next meeting.

**MOVED BY: H. Crawford**  
**SECONDED: B. Brennan**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Commission recommends to Council that it directs the Commission to review and make recommendations to Council on adoption of a North Saanich Food Charter.

**CARRIED**

B. Brennan provided background on the recommendation regarding an Agricultural Awareness Plan. The group decided that the matter would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Environmental concerns would be addressed in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture. R. Kline advised that Surrey and Langley have worked on incorporating edge buffer planning into new developments and can provide an example in both bylaws and community plan language. He agreed to request this information for the Commission to review.

On a question about whether the Ministry of Agriculture has dealt with issues around air quality and odour, R. Kline advised there are general guidelines for nutrient management. He noted that the method of application can affect air quality and odour. There is a process for official complaints, and there have been complaints from other parts of the peninsula. A. Finall felt that although air quality and odour are the most pervasive complaints, groundwater and nutrients are of more concern. She noted that there was a hydrological study done on the Munro Rd. area and a report delivered. A. Scoones agreed to investigate the results and suggested that the topic could be referred to the EAC.

The group discussed the recommendation to support the equine industry in North Saanich. B. Dunic advised that the industry has changed in recent years and that dressage riding has increased. Where riding was previously more community based, it has become more business oriented. A number of indoor riding rings exist; this can be reviewed with the zoning bylaw.

## **DISCUSSION OF MAIN ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN NORTH SAANICH AGRICULTURAL AREA PLAN**

Discussion postponed to next meeting.

### **DISCUSSION**

Topics to be discussed at the 2009 Agricultural Advisory Committee workshop to be held by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Strengthening Farming Program

A. Finall reported that the main issues are whether or not there should be one central workshop or several regional workshops. The topics that concern farmers are being able to make a living at farming and agricultural seasonal workers. R. Kline advised that Pitt Meadows has passed a bylaw dealing with season farm worker dwellings. Commission members felt that this is an issue in North Saanich.

The following topics were proposed:

- Lack of funding support from the Province
- New assessment rules

Farm economics to be discussed at the September meeting.

Attendance at workshops by local government planning staff

The group felt that District planning staff should attend.

**MOVED BY:           H. Crawford**  
**SECONDED:         B. Brennan**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Commission recommends to Council that two planning staff members, council liaisons and as many members of the Agricultural Advisory Commission as wish to attend be requested to attend 2009 Agricultural Advisory Committee workshop.

**CARRIED**

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Commission will be held at 4:00 p.m. on September 4, 2008.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.