

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

**Held Thursday, June 19, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.**

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

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**INTRODUCTIONS AND CALL TO ORDER**

A. Finall called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

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

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting held June 05, 2008 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

**MOVED BY:** B. Brennan  
**SECONDED:** N. Schafer

THAT the agenda for the June 19, 2008 meeting be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF JUNE 05, 2008**

A. Finall vacated the Chair and left the meeting at 4:09 p.m. I. Mishchenko assumed the Chair.

B. Hughes entered the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

9645 West Saanich Road – Summary of the Comments of the North Saanich Agricultural Commission members

I. Mishchenko recapped the discussion from the meeting held June 05, 2008. The discussion notes he had synthesized had been circulated by email; however he had not received any feedback.

S. Fea pointed out that the tax issue mentioned in the notes is governed by the B.C. Assessment Authority and consequently should not form part of further debate. After discussion, I. Mishchenko agreed to amend the notes to reflect that the subject had been discussed but is under the jurisdiction of the Assessment Authority. He also noted that the staff report had recommended that Council refer the application to AAC for comment rather than recommendation. I. Mishchenko will also add the diagram originally attached to the meeting minutes dated June 05, 2008.

The Commission members indicated that the draft report was a good overview of the issues and did not require any changes over and above those requested by Councillor Fea regarding the tax issues being governed by the B.C. Assessment Authority.

**MOVED BY: B. Brennan**  
**SECONDED: N. Schafer**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Commission forwards the Summary of Comments from the North Saanich Agricultural Commission regarding this application for Non Farm Use to Council, and the commission expresses concerns in this matter.

**CARRIED**

H. Martman and C. Sigurdson objected to the context in which the Summary of Comment is written. S. Fea advised that they have an opportunity to come back to Council to clarify statements made in the document, and suggested that it be added to the Council agenda for July.

I. Mishchenko vacated the Chair and H. Martman and C. Sigurdson left the meeting at 4:25pm.

A. Finall resumed the Chair.

Cage Free Eggs

B. Hughes read a draft recommendation, which was discussed by the group.

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

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Commission supports Council's June 4, 2007 resolution and recommends to Council that wherever the District has control over the purchasing both for the municipality itself or through other suppliers that it only purchases eggs from non caged laying chickens.

**CARRIED**

N. Schafer noted that a recommendation had been previously been postponed as members had expressed their concern that 'caged' was not a sufficient definition, but that the Commission was hesitant about making a recommendation that could have complicated results. B. Hughes stated that he had reviewed information from the Specialty Egg Group of the B.C. Chicken Marketing Board, and added that there are many inconsistencies affected by marketing wording and that any definition is difficult. B. Hughes said the next step is density of the number of birds within a certain space and that there is still discussion going on regarding standards.

North Saanich Flavour Trail

Dates for the event are July 23 and 24, 2008. A. Finall provided an update on the work of the Flavour Trail subcommittee, and B. Brennan circulated a task list. An application for funding was submitted to Island Agri-Food Initiative, and a copy will be circulated to Commission members. Lisa Ellis, an events coordinator, will provide an estimate of her costs to coordinate the Flavour Trail.

The local Peninsula Times magazine has proposed a centre spread, paid for by sponsors such as Thrifty Foods and Island Farms and including a map of events and days. Members agreed that sponsors should be involved with food production and sales in North Saanich. The magazine editor also offered to help with a logo and brochures.

Members felt they needed assurance that promises made are delivered on, and that the Commission have final control. N. Schafer noted that a coordinated plan is needed to ensure that businesses are not approached more than once for their interest. The group agreed that signs would provide the best exposure for the event.

R. Kline entered the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Further discussion arose on the use of signs, a logo or brand and production of a brochure and a map, possibly with the assistance of District staff. Members agreed that a coordinator should be hired and the magazine publisher's proposal developed further, and that a brochure should be completed by approximately July 20<sup>th</sup> for promotional use during July and August.

B. Williams entered the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Discussion arose about the UBCM grant to the Spirit Committee and the possibility of re-directing any money left over from the parade float to the Flavour Trail.

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

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Commission recommends to Council that it requests that any surplus funds from the UBCM grant be directed to the Flavour Trail.

**CARRIED**

N. Schafer noted that all monies should be spent effectively. B. Brennan stated that a budget should be produced which the group will be responsible for. A. Finall said that receiving the Island Agri-Food Initiative grant will enable the Flavour Trail to have a logo and a process in

place to assist future coordinators of the event. N. Schafer also noted that this year's event coordinator should be requested to identify and document the process for future use.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

B. Hughes questioned why the Commission had not been involved in the Housing Strategy. A. Finall noted there was no mention of it in the District newsletter although it is an important undertaking and important for agriculture. B. Hughes said that Delta has recently passed regulations concerning transient greenhouse workers.

H. Crawford asked whether the review of bylaws will be carried out separately or as part of the Agricultural Area Plan. A. Finall advised this will be discussed at next meeting, and that the Commission should request that Council refer the matter for input as the OCP mentions edge planning and buffer zones. A. Scoones suggested obtaining copies of existing agricultural bylaws from other jurisdictions.

R. Kline added that due to budget uncertainty, government discretionary spending has been frozen and that funding for agricultural area plans may be affected. If there is a shortfall when Investment Agriculture approval is received, the Commission should advise them that there was an existing assumption that a grant was coming from Ministry of Agriculture.

A. Scoones suggested that plans already created should be reviewed as a starting exercise.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Commission will be held at 4:00 p.m. on July 3, 2008.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.