

## **PITT MEADOWS AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the Agricultural Advisory Committee held at 10:00 a.m. on June 14th, 2018 in the Meadows Room of the Pitt Meadows City Hall, 12007 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows, British Columbia

### **PRESENT:-**

Committee Members:-

Alana Aquilini  
Joe Bachmann, Chair  
Macky Banns  
Bruce Bell, Council Liaison  
Lynn Kemper  
Mike Manion  
Philip Robinson  
Mike Stark, Acting Council Liaison  
Wayne Wisselink

Guests:-

Leo Captein  
Councillor Bill Dingwall  
Patricia Gordon  
Dan Kosicki  
Rod MacLeod, Aquilini  
Henley Thach, Green Road applicant

Staff:-

Kate Barchard, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor and CAO  
Allison Dominelli, Development Services Technician  
Lisa Grant, Manager of Community Development, Meeting Chair  
Elaine Harrison, Recorder

### **REGRETS:-**

Hank Bitter  
Janis Elkerton, Alternate Council Liaison  
Dieter Geesing, Ministry of Agriculture  
Bob Hopcott  
Bill Park

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

### **1. LATE ITEMS**

No late items were submitted.

### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED** by Wayne Wisselink and **SECONDED** by Lynn Kemper, **THAT** the minutes of the May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 committee meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### **3. RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING MEMBERS**

On behalf of Mayor and Council, Councillor Bruce Bell presented departing committee members Dan Kosicki and Leo Captein with an art piece and thanked them for their many years on the Committee.

Dan commented on the many positive things that the Committee had discussed over the years such as the farm home plate, farm worker housing, the Klohn Krippen report, drainage utilities, water levels in ditches and agri-tourism. He also pointed out the challenges that it would face in the future such as the North Lougheed connector, houses of worship and salmonids in the drainage system and he said that as long as farmers are protected they will then protect the farmland.

#### **4. ALR NON-FARM USE APPLICATION – 18224 GREEN ROAD**

The Committee was asked to review a non-farm use application for 18822 Green Road to permit a commercial printing and anodizing business on the property. The scale of the business had increased and no longer met the regulations of the ALC or the City's Zoning Bylaw to qualify as a home based business.

The applicant, Henley Thach, spoke to the Committee about his application and mentioned the challenges of trying to provide an income based on the agricultural use of the land and the small scale business. He felt he had received conflicting advice on the amount of expansion he was allowed to undertake on his property compared to what his neighbours appeared to have carried out.

Whilst being sympathetic to the resident's desire to operate a small scale business at his property the Committee felt that the request did not meet their mandate to support agriculture. They pointed out that the business could be scaled back to comply with the Zoning Bylaw or relocated to an industrial unit.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**MOVED** by Joe Bachmann and **SECONDED** by Mike Manion, **THAT** Council be informed that the Agricultural Advisory Committee does not support the non-farm use application for 18224 Green Road. **CARRIED**

#### **5. ALR INCLUSION APPLICATION – 3 PROPERTIES ON RANNIE ROAD**

Alana Aquilini declared a conflict of interest in the application due to her association with the Golden Eagle Farm Group. The Committee agreed that she was welcome to stay and observe the discussion.

The Committee was asked to review an application to include land into the ALR. The application encompassed three properties adjacent to the Lafarge Quarry which were already partially in the ALR, have farm status through BC Assessment and were being entirely farmed with blueberry crops.

The Committee unanimously supported the application.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**MOVED** by Lynn Kemper and **SECONDED** by Mike Manion, **THAT** Council be informed that the Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the ALR Inclusion Application for three properties on Rannie Road by the Golden Eagle Farm Group. **CARRIED**

## **6. SUSTAINABILITY OF FARMING**

Joe Bachmann had asked that his discussion item on the sustainability of farming be reviewed in light of new members joining the Committee.

Staff reported that since the item was last discussed the Environmental Stewardship Officer had made a presentation to Council regarding the classification of all water systems in the City which was currently being worked on and would help to clarify the situation.

The Committee made the following comments:-

- What is good for salmon is not good for drainage ditches
- Areas other than the Katzie Slough such as the Alouette River or Upper Pitt Lake would be more suitable for introducing salmon
- The fish issue is contentious with ditch setbacks and water levels set for fish and not for farmers which has huge implications
- The current Policy says that waterways are for drainage and irrigation so Council needs to keep that in place along with the future Councils
- Both plant and fish invasives in the Katzie Slough need to be dealt with first which will in turn bring enhancements
- The amount of fuel tax that Canadian farmers pay for diesel puts them at a competitive disadvantage to American farmers

The Committee agreed they would continue to lobby and keep their voice heard.

## **7. ROUNDTABLE**

Lisa Grant – said that a Vision and Values event for the OCP would be held on Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup> and a Future of Transportation Forum on June 25<sup>th</sup>, both at the Heritage Hall, and encouraged all members to attend.

Mike Manion – commented on the Township of Langley Ecological Services farm tour which he had recently attended and where amongst other things invasive species had been discussed.

Joe Bachmann – asked if there was a policy regarding members of the public speaking at meetings. Lisa said that the procedures for all Council appointed Committees were being reviewed and once the report was published the structure, agendas and terms of reference of the AAC may change.

Joe also mentioned that in past years the Committee had struggled to find new members and in welcoming the 3 new members asked them why they had shown an interest in joining the Committee. The new members said they were all active in the farming community, wanted to be involved in the community and be part of the conversation.

Philip Robinson – commented that he had reviewed Joe's list of items regarding the sustainability of farming and felt that the price of fuel and energy costs also impacted farmers.

Bruce Bell – said that when preparing his speech to give to the department members he had been provided with minutes of the AAC from 2001 and had been surprised at how small the committee had been then and how some names mentioned were still relevant on the Committee now.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Committee meeting will be held on July 12th, 2018 at 10:00a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.