



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 7:00pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338 – 65 Avenue, Langley, BC

MINUTES

Present:

M. Gunn, Community Co-Chair
Councillor D. Davis, Council Co-Chair
Councillor B. Whitmarsh, Council Co-Chair

J. Caldarella, C. Clark, D. Horn, P. Kathuria, T. Knight, and A. Spencer

Staff:

V. Gafka, Senior Manager, Economic Investment and Development
R. Nelson, Senior Planner
A. Reeve, Langley Environmental Partners Society
M. Roberts, Planner 1
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

Code of Ethics Signing

Members signed the *“Code of Ethics, Confidentiality, and Conflict of Interest for Council Members and Appointees”*.

Election

T. Knight nominated M. Gunn to be the Community Co-Chair.
C. Clark seconded the nomination.

M. Gunn was elected Community Co-Chair, by acclamation, and assumed the position for the rest of the meeting.

Welcome

Round table introductions took place.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - January 23, 2019

Moved by C. Clark,
Seconded by D. Horn,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee approve
the agenda and receive the agenda items of the January 23, 2019 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee - September 26, 2018

Moved by T. Knight,
Seconded by A. Spencer,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee adopt the Minutes of the September 26, 2018 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. The Langley Small Farm Network

A. Reeve of the Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS), provided a presentation regarding establishing a Small Farm Network in the Township of Langley. Initiative 2.1.3 in the Agricultural Viability Strategy (AVS) identifies an action to review the merits of a farm organization, such as a Farmers' Institute, to better represent the views of the Township's farm community. Funds (\$8,000) have been allocated in the AVS for this strategic action.

LEPS staff have reviewed the Farmers' Institute models in Brackendale, Smithers, Coombs, and Salt Spring Island. All Farmers' Institutes in BC "strive to serve the needs of the local agricultural community, meeting monthly to identify and address issues of interest and concern to local farms, farmers, and agricultural stakeholders. Members also sit on committees in the wider community, advocating for farmers' interests at community, municipal, provincial, and federal levels. They offer regular workshops, farm tours, professional development opportunities, farmers markets, and social events to benefit farmers, farms, other agricultural stakeholders and the local community".

The Langley Small Farm Network would engage small-scale farmers to support their sustainability through several activities including: hosting regular speakers and workshops to give farmers access to financial, marketing and other business advice, conveying environmental best practices and connecting farmers to existing resources with hand on workshops and tours, and by connecting farmers to each other to develop a network of mutual support for the sharing of knowledge as well as pooling resources.

COUNCIL

Moved by T. Knight,
Seconded by J. Caldarella,
That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee recommend Council allocate \$8,000, earmarked for Initiative 2.1.3 in the Agricultural Viability Strategy, to the Langley Environmental Partners Society to investigate the merits of a local farm organization.

CARRIED

The committee further asked for a progress report in September 2019.

D. REPORTS

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Review Terms of Reference

Staff reviewed the AAEEC Terms of Reference.

2. Review Strategies

R. Nelson reviewed the Agricultural Viability Strategy (AVS). The Vision of the AVS states that:

“The Township of Langley supports agriculture while fostering and encouraging sustainable and viable production. Farmers are respected and appreciated for their contributions to the community and its citizens”.

The four areas of emphasis are:

- Providing a welcoming business environment for farming;
- Providing the required services and infrastructure;
- Providing a secure agricultural land base; and
- Ensuring farmer use of best farm management practices.

V. Gafka reviewed the Economic Development Strategy (EDS). The Mission of the EDS is:

“To attract, retain, and grow industry, investment, and jobs in the Township of Langley”.

The three themes of the strategy are business, place, and people. Six specific goals were identified in the strategy:

1. Help create additional jobs so that there are more jobs than working residents to maintain employment opportunities for local workers.
2. Maintain the diversity of the local economy by helping existing companies to expand and by attracting new industries.
3. Facilitate infrastructure improvement that contributes to economic development.
4. Contribute to town centre development.
5. Help create a learning community.
6. Enhance a quality of life for Langley’s residents.

79% of the action items are either complete or ongoing. The strategy is termed to 2018 and staff are working on completing a new Economic Development Strategy

F. WORK PROGRAM

to present to Council in 2019. A Stakeholder Engagement Forum was held in 2018.

3. 2019 Work Program

Staff reviewed the ongoing projects for both Agriculture and Economic Development.

Agriculture

- Ecological Services Initiative (on-going)
- Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Framework (Council Referral)
- Farm Tour (Spring)
- Update Agricultural Profile

Economic Development

- Buy Local (on-going)
- Advertising and Promotion (on-going)
- Economic Forum

Discussion ensued and members were asked to provide any other ideas for the 2019 Work Program. One suggestion was to review the process for farmers wanting to take land out of the Agricultural Land Reserve. Staff noted that this will be explored as part of the Agricultural Impact Assessment process review.

MOTION

Moved by D. Horn,

Seconded by J. Caldarella,

That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee endorse the draft 2019 Work Plan, and ask staff to forward to Council.

CARRIED

COUNCIL

Moved by T. Knight,

Seconded by C. Clark,

That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee recommends that Council endorse the draft Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement 2019 Work Plan, (See Attachment A).

CARRIED

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

1. Metro Vancouver Agricultural Advisory Committee

MOTION TO RESOLVE IN SPECIAL CLOSED MEETING

Moved by D. Horn,

Seconded by J. Caldarella,

That the Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee now resolve in a Special Closed Meeting for discussion of the following item, in accordance with, and as identified, under Section 90 of the Community Charter:

Item A.1 – Section 90(1) (a) Personnel.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESSED

The meeting recessed at 8:39pm.

MEETING RECONVENED

The meeting reconvened at 8:49pm.

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. 2019 Membership List

Provided on table for information.

2. 2019 Meeting Schedule

Provided on table for information.

3. Committee Photo

A photo was taken for the Township website.

N. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338 – 65 Avenue

Time: 7:00 pm

O. TERMINATE

Moved by A. Spencer,

Seconded by J. Caldarella,

That the meeting terminate at 9:00pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair

Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee

Proposed 2019 Work Program

The Agricultural Advisory and Economic Enhancement Committee proposes to undertake the following work in 2019 consistent with the Committee's purpose and mandate. Calendar months show the time and duration of the work.

Project & Associated Tasks	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Agricultural Viability Strategy (AVS) Provide advice, support, input and direction in the implementation of AVS.	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√
2.3.1 Implement a agricultural impact assessment (AIA) process		√	√	√	√	√						
2.1.2 Prepare an Agriculture Profile (based on data from 2016 Census of Agriculture and Ministry of Agriculture Land Use Inventory)						O	O	O	O	O	O	
2.4.7 Continue with pilot project for Ecological Services Initiative (ESI) (1 year extension granted by Council)	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		
Farm Tour Plan and host a bus tour; usually scheduled in April or May			√	√	√	√						
Economic Development Strategy (EDS) Provide advice, support, input and direction in the implementation of EDS.	O	O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O
Economic Forum Provide support for the annual forum.	O	O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O
Buy Local Provide advice, support, input and direction, as required.	O	O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O
Consider or inquire into matters as requested by Council Respond to on-going requests as they arise.	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√

Key:

√ = Committee-led initiative

O = On-going initiative, based on staff work programs and respective strategies such as AVS and EDS

L = Project led by the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation