

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Robin Tunnicliffe, John Buchanan, Brent Donaldson, Alex Fletcher, Karen Hoffman, Councillor Donaldson

Guests: Lorraine Buchanan, Morgan Bley, Peter Chettleburgh, Sharie Rourke, Eric White, Tamara Ballard

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Additions to New Business

7 h) New Members

7 i) Stormwater

Moved and seconded by Karen Hoffman, Brent Donaldson

2. Presentations

None

3. Public Participation

Sasha Kubicek – shared concerns of development of farmable land i.e. Arden Road and Rocky Pt Rd. ALR Land Use guidelines regarding setbacks of buildings including sizes, driveway placement, removal and depositing of materials outside of these guidelines. Farmland designated ALR is held in reserve for farming practice, benefit to that is the taxation cost.

Sharie Rourke – addressed limitations of secondary dwellings on ALR properties; added that funding for Ag Plan can be sought from Industrial Site revenue (Land Swap site).

4. Adoption of Minutes

a) Agricultural Advisory Select Committee, August 31 2022

Moved and seconded by Alex Fletcher and Brent Donaldson

5. Receipt of Minutes

- a) Finance Committee, February 6, 2023
Moved and seconded by Karen Hoffman and John Buchanan

6. New Business Arising from the Minutes

- a) Tiny Homes – S. 259 of ALC states secondary dwellings are permitted for farmhands.
working 20h/week. Discussion of which types of dwellings were permitted including Tiny Homes, RV's, modular homes. Clarification needed on acceptable dwellings and approval process.
- b) Metchosin Agricultural Plan, Next Steps – Alex spoke favourably to Council at the February 28th Special Finance Meeting (budget) stating the value of investing in an Agricultural Plan = Business Plan – important to access further funding from province supporting successful agricultural projects. Establish a baseline about demographics, our characteristics, types of farming, trends, income, trends to measure progress as we implement projects. A plan gives council clear priorities to strengthen agriculture in Metchosin and collaborate with the region and advocate at the CRD level. identify key challenges and barriers that exist for new farmers. Protect food security locally and for the region especially with the threat of supply chain issues as witnessed through the pandemic, floods and fires. Climate change mitigation & adaptation can be dovetailed into a plan to be more relevant and better able to access funds and build something meaningful with our food production resources.

7. New Business

- a) Central Saanich Food Hub Feasibility Study Final Report – Are they valuable? Would the public use them sufficiently to be viable? Discussion about pros and cons; compete with grocery store franchises.
- b) Metchosin Grown Event, 2023 – Farm Tour; after informal discussion with several farmers, it was decided that a formal farm tour event isn't feasible because of parking, insurance and volume. We decided instead to resurrect the Metchosin Producers Guide for the MUSE. We endeavour to have this printed with a map for the May edition.
- c) Letter to CRD re: Increased Goose Pressure in Metchosin – food safety issues, laborious efforts removing excrement multiple times per day; more information coming from the PACC next week.
- d) Building Permits, Decision making in the ALR – PAC reviews permits affecting farmland. Advocacy of ALR farmland – our responsibility to protect land for farming, it is exempt for this purpose.
- e) Discussion on rabbits – district staff are addressing the issue.
- f) AASC joint meeting with Council – Robin will be in touch with district Deputy –

Corporate Officer to arrange a meeting.

Motion: *THAT* AASC be consulted by district with new construction on properties with potential to farm so the committee can provide input on land use setbacks and parameters favorable to preserving potential farming activities.

- g) Annual Municipal Report, AASC 2022 Report – Robin will compose a short report for staff describing AASC goals and actions.
- h) New Members – AASC seeking new members to fill vacant committee positions. Applicants need to send an application letter to the district expressing experience and purpose of participating on the AASC.
- i) Stormwater – Brent gave a report on the recent CRD workshop – water courses and ponds, drainage, land management and farm assessment – retention, forward grazing, grass growth, mapping/wells, soil, manure management and regulations, specific time of year to fertilize, protecting land.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

Next meeting: April 6, 2023