



DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

AGENDA

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING

May 10, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Council Chambers
Metchosin Municipal Hall

1. **Agenda, Additions, Approval**
2. **Presentations**
 - a) Mark Atherton, Chair, PTASC, Advisory Committees to Council
3. **Public Participation**
4. **Adoption of Minutes**
 - a) Agricultural Advisory Select Committee, April 6, 2023 1
5. **Receipt of Minutes**
 - a) Finance Committee, April 3, and May 1, 2023..... 5
6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
 - a) Metchosin Agricultural Plan, Next Steps
 - b) Metchosin Grown Map and Tour of Metchosin Farms
 - c) Metchosin Farm Forum 2023
7. **New Business**
 - a) Promoting Farming, Creation of positive public image for Agriculture
8. **Correspondence**
9. **Adjournment and Next Meeting Date**

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

MINUTES

AGRICULTURE ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Robin Tunicliffe, John Buchanan, Brent Donaldson, Alex Fletcher, Andrew Penn, Peter Chettleburgh, Councillor Donaldson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved and Seconded by Brent Donaldson and Andrew Penn that the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

2. Election of Chair

Robin Tunnicliffe unanimously re-elected as chair.

Carried

3. Presentations

Kathleen Zimmermann, Regional Agrologist for the Agricultural Land Commission gave a three-part presentation on Permitted uses in the Agricultural Land Reserve. Part 1 concerned size and location of housing that the ALC permits in the ALR. This included siting and home plate size, including examples of two Metchosin properties that lost valuable farm land to new home and driveway construction. In Part 2 she described fill requirements and issues in the ALR, noting that 44% of enforcement issues are related to fill activities. Part 3 related to Permitted Farm Uses in the ALR, which led to discussion on Agritourism. On urging by the committee Kathleen agreed to make a similar, if somewhat condensed, presentation to Council at a future date.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by John Buchanan and Brent Donaldson that the Committee Approve AASC minutes of March 2, 2023

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

Finance Committee minutes of March 6th

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a. AASC Terms of Reference Discussion: Robin Tunnicliffe noted that the new council is more supportive of AASC than previous councils. She hopes that we can have a more supportive role than in the past, more like the role that the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission (PAAC) has on the Saanich Peninsula. She hoped that the Metchosin committee could work with council and make recommendations on how farm land is used in the community.
- b. Metchosin Agricultural Plan: Councillor Donaldson noted that the Plan is currently part of Budget Talks at Council and nothing has been decided as yet. Robin noted that the next step for Metchosin's Agricultural Plan will take place when/if municipal funding is approved

John Buchanan described the increasing problem that local producers are having with wildlife - the Wildlife Farming Interface. Cougars, bears, geese and elk are causing significant damage to livestock and crops and the problem will only get worse if control measures are not undertaken.

- c. Metchosin Producers Guide. Robin Tunnicliffe noted that the 2023 Guide is in final stages of preparation and will be included as a feature in the next (May) issue of the Metchosin Muse. She also hoped that there would be a web-based component to the Guide and possible distribution outside Metchosin. Andrew Penn described a successful mail drop that Bilston Creek Farm had done in the Royal Bay development. Andrew Penn suggested that the Committee re-name the Guide without using the word "Producers". One suggestion was to use the already agreed upon "Metchosin Grown".
- d. AASC Joint Meeting with Council. Alex Fletcher suggested that the Committee should advise Council on some of the items described by Kathleen Zimmerman in her presentation, specifically Home Plate setbacks and information on housing for farm workers. Alex to draft information on Home Plate setbacks for presentation to Council in May.
- e. Annual Municipal Report, AASC 2022 Report – Robin Tunnicliffe
 - Agriculture Forum was a great networking event where we heard from growers about what they need from their municipality and AASC. We have thorough notes from this event, and it was well facilitated by Jackie Larkin, very valuable.
 - Alex coordinated a visit from planners with the CRD and Ministry of Agriculture to talk about agriculture planning and next steps. We continue to monitor for funding.
 - We met in the fall, buoyed by the new council who appear more interested in agriculture. We had some fruitful discussions about next steps and a possibly a bigger role assisting council with stewarding our farmland.

7. New Business
 - Brent Donaldson suggested that the Committee organize another Farm Forum. Andrew Penn agreed that it could take place at Bilston Creek Farm, noting that as a business they need to be careful because some gatherings will be counted toward the number they are permitted to host each year.

 - Robin noted that there is a meeting in Saanich on April 16th to explore the formation of a Farmers' Institute. It will take place at the Saanich Fairgrounds.

 - Andrew Penn described a farm tour that Bilston Creek Farm organized that had guests coming from a Cruise Ship in Victoria.

8. Correspondence
None

9. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date
Meeting adjourned at 9:05
The next meeting will be held on May 4th at 7:00 p.m.

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Finance Committee Meeting
April 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

Metchosin Municipal Hall
Council Chambers

PLEASE NOTE: The meeting has been recorded.

Present: Councillor Donaldson in the Chair, Mayor Little, Councillors Epp, Gray and Shukin. Also present was Sue-Lin Tarnowski, Interim CAO/Corporate Officer, Tina Hansen, Deputy Corporate Officer, and Stephanie Dunlop, Fire Chief.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councillor Donaldson took the opportunity to acknowledge that the Finance Committee meeting was taking place on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples including our neighbours the Sc'ianew and T'Sou-ke First Nations.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved and Seconded by Mayor Little and Councillor Shukin that the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

2. Public Participation

Pattie Whitehouse, resident spoke to the budget deliberations and Council's decision making of 50 percent plus one when voting over some of the budget decision. Ms. Whitehouse would like to see Council look at these decisions to see if they are able to get closer to consensus.

Joanne Parker-Robinson, resident stated her support for the community garden proposal noting that it would be an exciting addition to the community and would provide community members without gardening space an opportunity to garden. Ms. Parker-Robinson stated a community garden would provide opportunities for hosting workshops, events, and resource and information sharing.

Anne Taylor, resident also supports the community garden proposal in Metchosin. Ms. Taylor believes a community garden would be an excellent place for people to connect with nature and learn how to grow food.

Derek Wulff, resident spoke in support of the community garden proposal stating he would be happy to offer his services as an organizer for the project.

Chris Robertson, resident also commented as to the community garden proposal advising that he is able to volunteer his time and labour to help move the project moving forward. Mr. Robertson believes this is a great idea for the community especially for those who do not have the resources in place to garden.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Councillors Gray and Shukin that the Committee adopt the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held March 6, 2023.

Carried

Moved and Seconded by Councillor Shukin and Mayor Little that the Committee adopt the minutes of the Special Finance Committee Budget Meeting held March 21, 2023.

Carried

4. Receipt of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Councillor Epp and Mayor Little that the Committee receive the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Select Committee meeting held, March 2, 2023.

Carried

5. Reports

a) Councillors Update

Councillor Donaldson reported on her Councillor's Update including the following:

- Finance Committee still working on the Municipal Budget
- Juan de Fuca Water Distribution and Rocky Point Road Water Upgrade Project
- West Shore Parks and Recreation Facilities Update
- Greater Victoria Public Library Board
- Te'mexw Treaty Advisory Committee Open House
- Agricultural Advisory Select Committee next meeting, April 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- Sarah Beckett Memorial Run May 13, 2023

Agricultural Advisory Select Committee recommendations, March 2, 2023 meeting:

Robin Tunnicliffe, Chair AASC, and member of the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission (PAAC) spoke to the Committee's recommendations for applications affecting ALR lands to be referred to the Committee similar to what is being done with applications on the Saanich Peninsula being referred to the PAAC to help protect future production capacity on agricultural land.

Committee discussion:

- Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission (PAAC) considers these type of applications
- Agricultural Lands in Delta, placement of homes
- ALC Enforcement

The Agricultural Advisory Select Committee will discuss the Committee recommendations further at their April 6, 2023 meeting.

Community Garden Project Proposal

Councillor Donaldson provided a PowerPoint Presentation and overview of a proposal for a community garden on the Metchosin School site.

Committee discussion:

- Consideration to other locations at the Metchosin School site
- Funding to get the project moving forward
- Stay along the fence line and phasing toward the back of the property
- Establishing a group to take on the project
- Appropriate location aside from the bramble patch for expanding the garden

Moved and Seconded by Councillors Shukin and Mayor Little that the Committee recommend Council approve in principle the stewardship of the land covered in brambles behind the tennis court at the Metchosin School site for a Community Garden pilot project.

Carried

Moved and Seconded by Councillors Shukin and Mayor Little that the Committee recommend Council request that as the Community Garden group expands, they explore options for the use of the land on the Metchosin School site along the fence line behind the bramble patch to the fence at the back of the field.

Carried

6. Adjournment

Moved and Seconded by Councillors Epp and Shukin that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Carried

Certified Correct

Chair

Corporate Officer

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Finance Committee Meeting
May 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

Metchosin Municipal Hall
Council Chambers

PLEASE NOTE: The meeting has been recorded.

Present: Councillor Donaldson in the Chair, Mayor Little, Councillors Epp, Gray and Shukin. Also present was Sue-Lin Tarnowski, Interim CAO/Corporate Officer, and Tina Hansen, Deputy Corporate Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councillor Donaldson took the opportunity to acknowledge that the Finance Committee meeting was taking place on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including our neighbours, the Sc'ianew and T'Sou-ke First Nations. A beautiful place where we live, work, and play.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved and Seconded by Mayor Little and Councillor Shukin that the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

2. Presentations

a) 2023 Grant in Aid Presentations

African Heritage Association of Vancouver Island

There was no presentation from the African Heritage Association of Vancouver Island.

Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (IACDI)

Sandy Jenkins, Metchosin's citizen representative on IACDI (established in 1989) provided background information as to the purpose of the Committee including to consult with members of the West Shore municipalities to be a voice and advocate for people with disabilities. Ms. Jenkins summarized IACDI's request for funding in the amount of \$250 to provide opportunities for those with disabilities to attend local music "in the park" events. Ms. Jenkins noted that Metchosin has sponsored their community picnic in past years.

Committee discussed:

- IACDI provided guidance in the past on the lift ramp during the renovations at the Metchosin School site.

Capital Bike

Lana Taves, Director, and Education Manager, noted that Capital Bike is a registered charity group whose mission is to get more people biking more places, more often safely and enjoyably. They focus on running free, fun, impactful community events and programs that get people biking. Ms. Taves provided an overview of the grant in aid request for Capital Bike in the amount of \$500 to facilitate a bike education program called “Everyone Rides Grades 4 and 5 at Hans Helgesen School.

Committee discussed:

- Riders’ communication “call out” when coming behind someone
- Metchosin’s Active Transportation Plan, feedback from Capital Bike
- The Program has been offered to approximately 6,500 students/66 schools

Juan de Fuca Performing Arts Society

David Stocks, Director, addressed the Committee as to the Juan de Fuca Performing Arts Society’s request for \$300 to go towards an expert study of accessibility and inclusivity to make the new Performing Arts Center accessible for people of all abilities. They want to be able to accommodate attendees, performers backstage and those who work at the facility.

Committee discussed:

- Accessibility at Mary Winspear Centre
- Collaboration with IACDI

Metchosin Preschool Society

Katie Coard, Second Vice-President, provided an overview of the grant in aid request in the amount of \$1,500 for the Metchosin Preschool Society for outdoor maintenance and surfacing at the preschool playground to ensure it is up to safety standards. Ms. Coard advised that the Preschool Society is operated by parents and volunteers, and it strives to be a supportive and nurturing family preschool.

Royal Canadian Legion (RCL), Branch 91

Richard Walker, First Vice President, stated the RCL’s mission statement is to serve veterans including serving the military and the RCMP and their families. Mr. Walker provided a summary of the grant in aid request in the amount of \$350 for the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 91 for the 2023 annual Holiday dinner for the homeless and less fortunate in the Western communities. The work is being done by volunteers and community members and each attendee is provided a contents bag of everything they need to prepare their own dinner on Christmas Day. This is the fourth year the RCL has been putting on the dinner and approximately 300 people attended in 2023.

Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission

Ed Kahakauwila, Board member, provided an overview of the grant in aid request in the amount of \$3,000 for the Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission for active scouting and promotion of filming locations in Metchosin, resulting in increased film production in the District. Mr. Kahakauwila advised that the Commission supports the film industry in the region with licencing, insurance, parking, and venues. Mr. Kahakauwila noted that Metchosin has been a great location for film productions.

Committee discussion:

- Film & Media Commission's collaboration with film companies that come to Metchosin
- Economic impact to the District

Metchosin Museum Society – written presentation

The Metchosin Museum Society written request submitted by Jim MacPherson, President is for \$800 in grant in aid to go toward the purchase of a new laptop computer.

3. Public Participation

Gary Smirfitt, resident, spoke to the Grant in Aid application for IACDI, noting that they were the impetus in the late 1980's for modifications to sidewalks and curbs to allow wheelchairs and they were also impetus for bus stops being ramped up. Mr. Smirfitt also spoke to concerns with the Grant in Aid application and proposal for the African Heritage Association of Vancouver Island.

Colin Sparks, resident, inquired as to whether funding had been set aside in the budget for safety infrastructure (dividers) on roads such as Rocky Point Road to protect pedestrians and cyclists.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Councillors Shukin and Gray that the Committee adopt the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on April 3, 2023.

Carried

Moved and Seconded by Councillors Shukin and Gray that the Committee adopt the minutes of the Special Finance Committee, Budget Meeting held on April 3, 2023.

Carried

Moved and Seconded by Councillors Shukin and Epp that the Committee adopt the minutes of the Special Finance Committee, Budget Meeting held on April 13, 2023 as amended.

Carried

5. Receipt of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Mayor Little and Councillor Gray that the Committee receive the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Select Committee meeting held April 6, 2023.

Carried

6. Reports

a) Councillor's Update

Councillor Donaldson provided an overview of her Councillor's Update including:

- Budget Preparations and Open House
- Buffer Land Working Group Update
- Earth Day Willing Park, bramble bashing event
- West Shore Parks and Recreation outdoor adventure show, martial arts program, Skateboard park grand opening
- Attendance at the 2023 AVICC Convention
- Sarah Beckett Memorial Run Fundraiser

7. **Adjournment**

Moved and Seconded by Mayor Little and Councillor Shukin that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Carried

Certified Correct

Chair

Corporate Officer