

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN  
MINUTES  
AGRICULTURE ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.  
Council Chambers  
Metchosin Municipal Hall

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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 Agrolgist 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 6<sup>th</sup>

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.