

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Robin Tunnicliffe (Chair), Councillor Donaldson, John Buchanan, Brent Donaldson (recorder), Alex Fletcher, Andrew Penn, Peter Chettleburgh, Karen Hoffman

Regrets: None.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved and Seconded by Peter C. and Karen H. that the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

2. Presentations

Mark Atherton, Chair of Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee (PTASC)

Mark gave a detailed overview of how he manages his advisory committee by having good meeting minutes with action statements and structure. Minutes are distributed to committee members for changes prior to submitting them to staff. Supporting the committee council liaison is very important as this is the bridge between PTASC and the Mayor and Council. The committee also follows the trails masterplan which is a guiding document for future planning. Mark noted that an Agricultural Plan (Ag plan) would also aid the agriculture committee in future planning and endeavors.

3. Public Participation

Sasha Kubicek, Sea Bluff Farm and APRM Director.

Sasha noted that he has met with Councillor Donaldson to discuss young agrions and utilizing unused farmland in Metchosin. Sasha also mentioned that it is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in British Columbia. There are good local examples in Metchosin, and we need to encourage more use of farmland.

Councillor Donaldson

Reported on the Community Garden plot located on old Metchosin school field. They have had one work party to date to remove blackberry vines. Next steps will be the William Head early release crew to remove the remaining blackberries. There is interest from community stakeholders in learning more about growing food. The garden plot is currently 50ft by 60ft, with possible expansion down the fence line.

4. Adoption of Minutes

The Agricultural Advisory Select Committee meeting minutes of April 6, 2023 were approved.

5. Receipt of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Karen H. and John B. that the Committee receive the Finance Committee Minutes of April 3, 2023 and May 1, 2023 for information.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Metchosin Agricultural Plan

Alex F. appreciated that the current Council approved in this year's budget the funds required to start the process for the much-needed Ag Plan. He also spoke of the next steps which include creating a subcommittee/working group. The following members volunteered: Alex F., Andrew P., and Peter C. One of the tasks of this group will be investigating opportunities for match funding for the plan. Also, there will be the requirement for a Request for Proposal (RPF) to seek out interested parties to help formulate the Ag plan.

b) Metchosin Grown Map and Tour of Metchosin Farms

Robin T reported on the farm map in the last Metchosin Muse and other opportunities for the publication to run stories about Metchosin Farms. For example, YAM magazine as well as social media, Capital Daily, and the District of Metchosin website.

c) Metchosin Farm Forum 2023

There was open discussion by committee members on community involvement forum as it relates to the creation of the Ag Plan.

7. New Business

a) Promoting Farming, Creation of a Positive Public Image for Agriculture

Discussion took place regarding development on arable farmland and that if we can attract young people to farming in Metchosin, the positive spins would be worthwhile. A part of this will be the messaging in the Metchosin Ag Plan. There was discussion by committee members on the Property Farm Assessment thresholds.

b) Farm Land Use

Discussion on farm housing size took place including mobile homes and non-temporary larger properties.

c) Ag Plan (Metchosin Muse Article)

There was discussion regarding opportunities, the number of farms in Metchosin, how many acres of farmland exists, and the value of monies generated by farming activities.

8. Reports

None.

9. Correspondence

None.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Robin T. and Karen H. that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting will be held on June 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.