

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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

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

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved and Seconded by John Buchanan and Brent Donaldson that the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

2. Presentations

Alison LeDuc of the Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association spoke on issues related to flooding and water contamination in the watershed. She described numerous flooding events over the past 100 years and in detail the flooding that took place in 2021. Future development may have more serious consequences and impact local fish populations, including to a unique strain of cutthroat trout. Brent Donaldson noted that planning in the region has been done piecemeal, subdivision by subdivision, without adequate understanding of impact on the watershed as a whole.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Brent Donaldson and John Buchanan that the Committee approve the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Select Committee meeting held on June 7, 2023.

Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Metchosin Agricultural Plan

Alex reported that a consulting firm has been chosen and the recommendation has gone to Council for approval. The Committee was pleased with the quality of both proposals submitted.

b) Metchosin Grown Map

Alex reported that there was still \$270 remaining in funds provided to/by the Committee. Maps have been placed in various locations around the community, receiving positive feedback from community members. Alex and Andrew suggested printing a few hundred more of the black and white versions of the map for distribution throughout Metchosin and neighbouring municipalities.

c) Metchosin Farm Forum

Following discussion, the committee set Friday, October 20th as the date for the next Farm Forum. It will be held at Bilston Creek Farm and Robin will write a brief item for the Metchosin Muse to publicize the event. Up to three speakers and time for socializing will be included in the Farm Forum.

d) Rezoning Application – 4409 William Head Road.

Robin made a site visit, and the Agricultural Committee has submitted its recommendations for the property. It was suggested that the existing building be used for farm-related purposes. Problems for the property and its owner associated with smell and noise from neighbouring restaurant and community hall. More to discuss.

5. New Business

- a) Andrew spoke about Destination Victoria and its interest in the Metchosin Grown Map and possible farm tours. Andrew to make more inquiries with Destination Victoria and report back to the Committee.
- b) Shelly is organizing a tour of the Buffer Lands. Date to be determined.

6. Reports: None.

7. Correspondence: None.

8. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Peter Chettleburgh and Andrew Penn that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Carried