



Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 12, 2015
 Location: Council Chamber
 City Hall, 1435 Water Street

Committee Members Present: Domenic Rampone, Ed Schiller, Jeff Ricketts (Alternate), John Janmaat, Keith Duhaime, Pete Spencer, Yvonne Herbison, Jill Worboys (Interior Health)

Committee Members Absent: Tarsem Goraya and Kevin Daniels (Alternate)

Staff Present: Urban & Rural Planning Manager, Todd Cashin; Planner, Melanie Steppuhn and Legislative Systems Coordinator, Sandi Horning

(* denotes partial attendance)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Opening remarks by the Chair regarding conduct of the meeting were read. The Chair reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

(Other items deleted for this response to Ministry of Agriculture for the Discussion Paper, below).

5. Old Business

5.1 Ministry of Agriculture - Discussion Paper on Agri-tourist Accommodation and Farm Retail Sales

Staff:

- Displayed a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Minister's Bylaw Standards on Agri-tourist accommodation and farm retail sales.
- Provided an overview of the discussion paper.

AAC Discussion:

- The Ministry needs to develop a way to audit agri-tourist accommodation and create some sort of auditing process
- It was suggested that business license fee should be increased to cover the cost of enforcement.

- Experience has shown that the people that are operating the RV sites are not necessarily farming the land resulting in a further deterioration of agriculture.
- The Ministry needs to find ways to encourage young farmers.

Staff:

- Provided clarification with respect to ALC enforcement and City enforcement.

AAC Discussion:

- Noted that there are issues with respect to monitoring/enforcement on agricultural property and the Ministry needs to deal with the issue.
- The Ministry needs to ensure that agri-tourism is truly supplemental to farming, specifically RV parks, and should tie agri-tourism activity directly to farming.
- Agri-tourism should be tourism that involves agriculture.
- The Ministry needs to find ways to ensure that the resources are adequate to enforce regulations.
- Suggested a business license fee or some sort of tax that would be allocated to enforcement. The ALC should maybe be charging a fee for non-farm uses as well as establish an audit process.