

Minutes: Agricultural Advisory Committee



MEETING DATE: November 1, 2011
LOCATION: Town Office – EPW Meeting Room
PREPARED BY: Adam McMullin, Engineering and Public Works

A. Call to Order

Present: James (Jim) Farmilo, James McKinlay, Lynn Vail, Sid Dykstra, John Ardiel, Ron Marshall, Al Lockhart
Regrets: Lance Burnham, Grant McMurchy, Jacquie Hendry, Rod Knott
Guests: Troy Speck (Chief Administrative Officer), Lisa Kidd (Economic and Communications Coordinator)

A.1 Review and approval of minutes

Adam reviewed the previous minutes. James noted under item ‘B.5 Farm Tour Follow-up’ that the date of the tour should read 2010. Minutes approved.

B. New and Unfinished Business

B.1 Chief Administrative Officer Introduction (Troy Speck)

James welcomed Troy Speck to the committee.

Troy thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak. Troy said that he is actively meeting with different groups, organizations and people in an effort to familiarize himself with the community. Troy said that he has learned that the relationship between the Town and the Agricultural Community has had tension in the past and sees an opportunity for improvement.

Troy asked the committee if there are any issues that they would like to discuss.

John Ardiel said that the agricultural community plays a large role in the community and that as tourism and development has grown the concerns and issues of the agricultural community have taken a back seat.

Committee members noted the centurion event as an example. The agricultural community was not included in the planning process and were not properly consulted.

James said that the agricultural advisory committee is helping to improve the situation.

Action/highlight: none.

John raised the idea regarding the ‘Sister City’ and that he cannot support the initiative.

Lisa Kidd said that she received a request from a councillor regarding the idea and is bringing it forward in a consistent and transparent manner to all of the groups/organization that she is consulting regarding economic development for the 2012 budget process.

John said that the Fruit Growers should be the first group consulted and that he wanted the minutes to include verbatim that 'this is the stupidest thing that I have ever heard of in my life.'

Troy said that this is the process of government and that no decision has been made.

B.2 Economic Development Workshop (Lisa Kidd)

Lisa reviewed the process of developing the economic development initiatives budget for 2012, which includes discussions with various groups (chamber of commerce, business improvement association, agricultural advisory committee and others) to solicit potential ideas or projects. Based on the feedback Lisa will propose initiatives for council to consider. Lisa noted that at this point the ideas are high level.

The committee discussed potential ideas and participated in a dotmocracy exercise. Based on the exercise the following initiatives emerged:

- Directional Signage
- Business Recruitment and Expansion Project
- Promotion of Local Food Initiatives
- Business Recruitment Project

Action/highlight: Lisa will circulate the Staff Report (when completed) outlining the proposed initiatives for 2012 budget to the committee.

B.3 Recycling Opportunity (Adam)

Adam reviewed the recycling program offered by Evolution Biopolymers Inc. (EBI) and Switch Energy. They are currently accepting bale wrap, boat wrap, plastic baler twine and some greenhouse plastic. Adam said that the plastic must be placed in plastic bags and that the company will collect the materials from the individual farmer. Adam said that the Town's landfill can act as a drop-off point as long as the materials are bagged and that the bags could be distributed from the landfill site.

John inquired about the used plastic pesticide containers and if there is an opportunity to recycle them.

Action/highlight: Adam to circulate the contact information to the committee and to post information regarding the program on the Town's website.

B.4 Previous Meeting Follow-Up (Adam)

Adam reviewed the budget process and noted that the process the committee followed last year regarding the environmental farm plan (EFP) was appropriate. Adam said the EFP is included as a budget enhancement, meaning that it is considered added service outside of the core services typically offered by the Town.

The committee discussed the merits of the EFP; some members felt the program is beneficial while others felt that these programs are not within the Town's mandate/jurisdiction.

Adam said that he has begun investigating the merits of conducting another farm tour for Town Staff and that he will follow-up with the committee in the future.

Adam noted that he is working on the local food policy and will bring a draft to the next meeting. James asked if the Town could informally start small, by including local food for the Christmas party.

Actions/highlight: Adam to bring draft local food policy to the next committee meeting and to investigate conducting another farm tour.

B.5 Poundkeeper Review (Adam)

Adam noted an additional option has been included regarding the poundkeeper discussion, specifically the ability of a distrainor to act as a poundkeeper.

The committee felt that moving forward with having Blue Mountain Veterinary Services and the destrainer as a poundkeeper would be most effective.

Action/highlight: None.

B.6 New Business

Adam forwarded a request that a member of the committee attend the Apple Pie Trail general meeting. Al Lockhart indicated that he was a member of the Apple Pie Trail group and is attending the meeting.

C. Next Meeting Date

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday January 10th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

D. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.