

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

Minutes of the **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** Meeting
Monday, December 11, 2006, at 8:04 p.m.
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

PRESENT: Councillor Chris Graham, A/Chair
Mayor Jack Mar
Councillors: Bryson, Garrison, Mason, and Thompson
Gary C. Nason, Administrator
Sara C. Ribeiro, Municipal Clerk
Hope V. Burns, Director of Planning & Building Services

ABSENT: Councillor King

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

1350.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MASON
NO SECONDER
That the Agenda for the Planning & Development Committee Meeting held on December 11, 2006, be approved as circulated.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Thompson excused himself from the Council Chamber at 8:04 p.m. due to a potential conflict of interest. Councillor Thompson stated that he is working in conjunction with the Southern Vancouver Island Direct Farm Marketing Association regarding Agri-Tourism.

1. Agri-Tourism Regulations – Committee Discussion Re: Proposed Next Steps in the Process, and Directions to Staff

The Administrator, Gary C. Nason, overviewed the correspondence received and the concerns raised in those letters. He discussed the proposed Agri-tourism Bylaw and associated Bylaws, the legal requirements, and possible next steps.

A discussion occurred between the Committee.

The Chair invited members of the public to briefly address their correspondence or to address the Committee.

Daniel Ponchet, 2030 Bear Hill Road, a Director of the Direct Farm Marketing Association, suggested that the Bylaw exclude school/educational tours from the requirement to obtain a Permit. He expressed the need to revisit and change the previous suggestions to accommodate the farming community.

Thelma Brookes, 6409 Oldfield Road, spoke to her correspondence. She expressed the need to revisit this process from the start as the Bylaw and the Task Force recommendations were not compatible. She suggested universal agri-tourism regulations for the Peninsula.

Joan Fleming, 8231 East Saanich Road, encouraged Council to use caution when attempting to regulate everyday farming operations and agreed there needs to be an exclusion for farm tours. She would like Council to adopt the Agricultural Land Commission regulations in regards to agri-tourism.

Sharon Lawrence, 8381 West Saanich Road, advised that soil needs to be protected to maintain to sustainability of local farms.

Kristin Jordan, 2487 Mount St. Michael Road, advised there are current provincial regulations for agri-tourism and Central Saanich needs to expand upon and change the proposed Bylaws to conform. She recommended Council re-open this issue completely, involve operator input, and involve the public before proceeding with the Bylaws.

Robert Maxwell, Chair of the Peninsula Agricultural Commission, 6325 Oldfield Road, spoke about the Direct Farm Marketing Association Annual General Meeting. He informed the Committee that any proposed Bylaws need to address the future potential concerns of farmers.

Frank Edgell, 1445 Benvenuto Avenue, Church & Estate Wines, spoke to his correspondence. He suggested the provisions in the proposed Bylaws be changed to better accommodate the farming needs and he offered to work with Council on this project.

Gilbert Noussitou, BC AgriTourism Alliance, agreed with the intention of the proposed Bylaws and the need to regulate farming activity; however, the Bylaws were restrictive and punishing. He expressed the need to revisit this matter from the beginning.

A discussion occurred between the Committee.

1351.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MASON
 NO SECONDER

That It Be Recommended To Council:

That an Ad Hoc Select Advisory Committee be struck to look at the proposed Bylaw Nos. 1537, 1540, and 1541, and to report to Council with recommendations, and the Committee be comprised of representatives from the local farming community/operators, Peninsula Agricultural Commission, BC Agritourism Alliance, Direct Farm Marketing Association, Grape Growers Association, a member of the District's Planning Department Staff, and one or two Council members.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1352.06 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BRYSON
 NO SECONDER

That It Be Recommended To Council:

That Councillors Bryson and Mason be appointed as Council's representative to the aforementioned Ad Hoc Select Advisory Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Joan Fleming suggested the Ad Hoc Select Advisory Committee include one staff representative from the Ministry of Agriculture.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion, the Planning & Development Committee Meeting held on December 11, 2006, adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Councillor Chris Graham, A/Chair

Recorded By: Sara C. Ribeiro
Municipal Clerk