

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

BYLAW NO. 1878

A Bylaw to Establish an Agricultural Advisory Commission

The Council of the District of Central Saanich, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. A Commission is established to be known as the "District of Central Saanich Agricultural Advisory Commission", pursuant to Section 461 of the Local Government Act.
2. The Commission shall be comprised of at least five (5) and no more than seven (7) members appointed by Council.

If five (5) or six (6) members are appointed, at least four (4) shall be residents of the Municipality. If seven (7) members are appointed, at least four (5) shall be residents of the Municipality.

All members of the Commission shall be appointed by Council resolution. Three (3) of the members appointed in 2016 shall have terms expiring on December 31, 2018, and the remaining members shall have terms expiring on December 31, 2019. Subsequently, the vacancies of those whose terms expire shall be filled for a term of two (2) years, or for terms otherwise specified by Council.

- 3 (i) In the event of a vacancy occurring in the Commission, the Council shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term thereof.
- (ii) A Council member, employee or officer of the local Municipality or an approving officer, is not eligible to be a member of an Agricultural Advisory Commission, but may attend a meeting in a resource capacity.
- (iii) Council may invite a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, or other knowledgeable persons, to attend meetings in a resource capacity.
- (iv) A Commission member shall forthwith advise the Chairman of the Commission when the Commission is considering any business or proposal in respect of which a member has a conflict of interest. A Commission member in a conflict of interest situation shall not participate in any debate or vote on the business or proposal in question, and shall leave the room in which the debate or vote is occurring.
- (v) A Commission member who has a right under section 9 of this bylaw to be heard in relation to any proposal that is under consideration by the Commission may appoint another person as a representative to exercise the member's right on his or her behalf.
- (vi) If a member of the Agricultural Advisory Commission is continuously absent, except with Leave of the Council, from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Agricultural Advisory Commission, the member's position shall be deemed to be vacant, and subsection (i) applies.

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- (vii) The Council may by a vote of at least 2/3 of the members present and voting at a meeting of Council, remove a member of the Agricultural Advisory Commission from office.
4. The meeting of the Commission shall be presided over by a Chair who shall be elected from the Commission members at the first meeting of each calendar year. The Chair shall appoint another Commission member as Acting Chair in case of the Chair's absence. The Chair shall be entitled to vote at all meetings.
 5. If five (5) members have been appointed by Council under section 2 of this bylaw, then three (3) members shall constitute a quorum of the Commission. If six (6) or seven (7) members have been appointed, then four (4) members shall constitute a quorum of the Commission.
 6. The Commission shall, by resolution, establish rules for its procedure, and may from time to time vary such rules by a vote of the majority of the members present at a meeting.
 7. In cases not provided for under this Bylaw or the procedural rules established by the Commission under section 6, the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order will apply to the proceedings of the Commission, to the extent that those rules are:
 - a. applicable in the circumstances; and
 - b. not inconsistent with this Bylaw, the procedural rules established by the Commission or the *Community Charter*.
 8. It is expected that the Commission will generally meet six times per year, with less frequent meetings during the growing season, but with additional meetings if necessary to address the business of the Commission in a timely manner.
 9. Where the Commission is considering an amendment to a plan or bylaw, or the issue of a permit, the applicant for the amendment or permit is entitled to attend at meetings of the Commission and be heard.
 10. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public. Members of the public will not, however, be afforded an opportunity to address the Commission; if a member of the public wishes to comment on a matter relating to the Commission or its business, such comment may be submitted to the Council.
 11. The Commission shall, upon receiving a request for advice from Council, provide recommendations to Council dealing with such matters as shall have been referred to it.
 12. Council may by resolution request the Commission to advise Council on any agricultural matters respecting land use, community planning or proposed Bylaws and permits under Divisions 4 to 14 of Part 14 of the Local Government Act, including:
 - i. Official Community Plans;
 - ii. Zoning Bylaws;

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- iii. Development Approval Information Requirements;
 - iv. Development Permits;
 - v. Temporary Use Permits;
 - vi. Development Variance Permits;
 - vii. Subdivision and Development Servicing Requirements and Related Matters;
 - viii. Phased Development Agreements;
 - ix. Runoff Control Requirements;
 - x. Flood Plain Requirements;
 - xi. Off-Street Parking and Loading Requirements;
 - xii. Sign Regulations; and,
 - xiii. Landscaping and Screening Regulations.
13. Council may by resolution request the Commission to advise Council on all matters respecting applications initiated under the Agricultural Land Commission Act and the ALR Use Subdivision and Procedure Regulation, including:
- (i) applications to approve Non-Farm Use of land in the Agricultural Land Reserve;
 - (ii) applications to subdivide land in the Agricultural Land Reserve;
 - (iii) applications to include or exclude land from the Agricultural Land Reserve; and,
 - (iv) applications to remove soil or deposit fill on land in the Agricultural Land Reserve.
14. In the review of applications and bylaw amendments, the Commission shall comment on the following:
- (i) the effect of the proposal on the agricultural potential of the subject property;
 - (ii) the effect of the proposal on adjacent farm properties and surrounding agricultural production;
 - (iii) the effect of the proposal on water resources and transportation issues;
 - (iv) the impact of the application on maintenance of the Agricultural Land Reserve;
 - (v) where appropriate, possible alternatives to the proposal; and,
 - (vi) issues relating to the protection of farm land specific to the application and the viability of farm operations, including the use of appropriate buffers to enhance land use compatibility.
15. The Commission may also make recommendations to Council on the following:
- (i) opportunities to raise awareness of agriculture;
 - (ii) the role of farming in the local economy;
 - (iii) competition for the agricultural land base;
 - (iv) improvements to municipal bylaws, policies and practices to support agriculture;
 - (v) priorities for Council advocacy to other agencies and levels of government for changes that would support agriculture;
 - (vi) opportunities to improve drainage and irrigation works;
 - (vii) the impact of park and recreation proposals on agriculture;
 - (viii) the impact of transportation and utility corridors on agriculture; and,

- (ix) municipal proclamations to raise awareness and celebrate instances of remarkable aspects of local farming and/or contributions by local farmers to the community of Central Saanich.

16. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the **“Central Saanich Agricultural Advisory Commission Bylaw No. 1878, 2016”**.

READ A FIRST TIME on this **6th** day of **June,** **2016.**
READ A SECOND TIME on this **6th** day of **June,** **2016.**
READ A THIRD TIME on this **6th** day of **June,** **2016.**
ADOPTED this **20th** day of **June,** **2016.**



Ryan Windsor
Mayor



Liz Cornwell
Corporate Officer

