

FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, September 3, 2015

4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Committee Room

Present: Chris Alemany, Sam Brownlee, Guy Langlois, Rosalind Chapman, Sandra Gentleman, Gary Swann

Regrets: John Mayba, Bob Haynes

Guest: Heather Shobe, Anna Lewis, Russell Dyson

1. Approval of Minutes from June 9, 2015

Gary Swann moved to approve, Chris Alemany Seconded

2. Approval of Agenda

- Moved item a) to the end of the meeting to accommodate our guest speakers.
- Added letter from Jen Fisher Bradley for discussion at the end of the meeting.

Gary Swann moved to approve, Sandra Gentleman Seconded

3. Discussion with Russell Dyson, CEO ACRD - Status of proposal submitted to the ACRD for rain water harvesting rebate program.

Russell Dyson discussed how the rain water harvesting rebate program could be funded by the ACRD. It was suggested that our best option would be to apply for funding support from the Grants in Aid program. To be eligible an independent organization would have to apply and administer the programs. There was some discussion regarding the Farmers Institute assuming this role. The ACRD would be receiving applications in January and February.

4. Presentation by Heather Shobe and Anna Lewis Agricultural Support Workers for the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District - Water harvesting grant application for funding from the Real Estate Foundation.

Motion:

To support for the Agricultural Support Workers application for funding request from the Real Estate Foundation of BC to develop policy and procedures for the agricultural use of water, both urban and traditional, within the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District.

Gary Swann moved to approve, Sandra Gentleman Seconded.

Action:

Guy Langlois will draft a letter of support and circulate it to the committee members for approval.

5. Presentation by Heather Shobe and Anna Lewis, Agricultural Support Workers for the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, regarding making recommendation to Port Alberni City Council:

- That any requirement for a business license be waived for market gardeners within the City of Port Alberni, and that the public be notified of this incentive;

Guy Langlois pointed out that he could not find any examples of a municipality waiving business license fees for market gardeners. The city of Vancouver is presently looking at this as they have been allowing market gardeners to operate and sell produce without a business license for several years. Market gardeners have expressed that they would prefer to be issued business licenses as then they would be able to apply for liability insurance.

Action:

Guy Langlois will contact Ken Watson and get his opinion on whether or not a business license would be required or if a special business license, at a reduce fee, would be considered for market garden operations.

- That the city investigate the cost of and implement a reduced water rate for market gardeners, as a support measure for increased urban agriculture;

Guy Langlois stated that he would support reduced water rates for market gardening operations if there was a requirement for market gardeners to implement water conservation measures like, rain water harvesting, drip irrigation and water timers.

- That the city investigate the possibility of producing a map/weblinks with a list of urban farmers and market stands;

This topic was brought up at a previous FSCCC meeting by Jen Fisher Bradley. It was decided that the AVTTS has developed an on-line food directory and map. It was recommended that the city support this initiative.

- Extending liability insurance to those small farm stands on the route provided they work within regulations required by the insurer.

Guy Langlois stated that liability insurance would be the responsibility of the land/business owner.

Action:

Guy Langlois will contact Ken Watson and get his opinion on whether or not liability insurance for market garden operations could be covered under the City's insurance policy.

6. Presentation by Edna Cox - AVTTS Food Group - Regarding plans on Food Security in Alberni Valley.

- Edna Cox provided an exhaustive history and review of the accomplishments of the Alberni Valley Transition Town Society (AVTTS) and the work that the Food Group committee has done to improve food security in the Alberni Valley.

Future plans are to:

- Form a Food Security Round Table to develop a Food Action Plan for the Alberni Valley;
- Draft a Strategic Plan to develop a Food Hub for the Alberni Valley;
- Seek funding to hire one staff person to administer the food hub and to find affordable office space.

Russell Dyson expressed his support and suggested that the AVTTS make a formal request to the ACRD board for support.

Gary Swan also indicated that the AVTTS may also make a funding request from the AV Community Forest Corporation.

7. Email correspondence from Jen Fisher Bradley

It was decided that we request that Jen Fisher Bradley make a formal presentation at our next FSCCC meeting.

8. Sam Brownlee asked if the letter that was sent from the City of Port Alberni to North Island College (NIC), requesting that the college consider developing agricultural programs in the Alberni Valley.

- Chris Alemany stated that city council had passed a motion to send a letter to NIC but did not hear if the city had received a reply.

Action:

Guy Langlois will contact NIC and ask if the request by the city was considered.

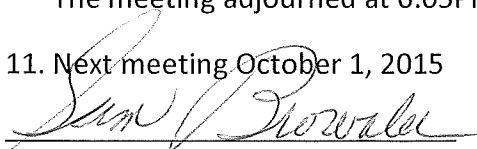
9. Correspondence: Letter from AV Community Forest Corporation in regards to sequestering carbon.

The letter was deferred to the next FSCCC meeting as we ran out of time.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05PM

11. Next meeting October 1, 2015


Sam Brownlee, Chair

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk