

City of Chilliwack
AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020 - 3:30 pm
Held Electronically

Council Members: Councillor Harv Westeringh, Vice Chair

ARAC Members: Stan Vander Waal, Industry Representative
Walter Goerzen, Community Member
Brett Payne, Industry Representative
Walter Dyck, Industry Representative
Peter Vink, Industry Representative
Chris Les, Industry Representative
Steve Saccomano, Community Member

City Staff: Gillian Villeneuve, Manager of Development Planning
David Blain, Director of Planning and Engineering
Erin Leary, Senior Planner
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Councillor Chris Kloot, Chair
Jacqueline Boer, Community Member
Sarah Sache, Community Member
Jeremy Wiebe, Industry Representative

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Harv Westeringh was Chair and called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda for the Agricultural and Rural Advisory Committee meeting held
Seconded (Monday, July 20, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes for the Agricultural and Rural Advisory Committee meeting held
Seconded (Wednesday, June 24, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

5. NEW BUSINESS

Jagjit Gill, Applicant was present.

a) ALR00358 – 46950 Chilliwack Central Road

The Manager of Development Planning provided a presentation regarding this application for approval of a non-adhering residential use to facilitate the siting of a mobile home to serve as an Accessory Seasonal Employee Residential (ASER) use within the subject property located at 46950 Chilliwack Central Road. The information provided included the location map/ortho photo, proposal/factors, and recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding the rationale for the application; staff noted a bylaw enforcement complaint was received on December 30, 2019 in relation to the siting of two mobile homes on the subject property without a Building Permit. Staff noted the Agricultural Land Commission's (ALC's) mandate is for the employee/farm worker housing to be associated with an active farming operation. The property is currently an open field and the property owner is preparing the land for blueberry production.

A query was raised regarding the applicant's second property nearby on Yale Road, and whether additional employee/farm worker housing will be required for this location; the applicant noted the second 90-acre parcel on Yale Road is an established blueberry farm and employees would be working on both farms while residing at the Chilliwack Central Road location.

A follow up query was raised regarding whether the application is considered seasonal housing for workers and, if the housing needs to be vacant for a period of time; staff noted it is classified as seasonal or as an Accessory Seasonal Employee Residential Use (ASER) under the Zoning Bylaw; however, the accommodation does not have to be vacant for any portion of the year. A committee member clarified the difference between into the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) which employs temporary workers for up to 8 months and/or the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) which can run up to two or more years.

Moved /) That the Agricultural and Rural Advisory Committee supports the proposed
Seconded ("non-adhering residential use" application and recommends Council forward
 the application to the ALC "with support".

Carried Unanimously

As part of their rationale, the Committee noted farm worker housing was necessary for the blueberry farm on Chilliwack Central Road in addition to the applicant's second property, an active blueberry farm, along Yale Road.

Jagjit Gill left the meeting at 3:39 pm.

6. PRESENTATION / DELEGATION

7. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

Letter from the Honourable Lana Popham (192357)

A letter from the Honourable Lana Popham dated July 14, 2020 was provided to the Committee for information regarding *legislative changes and associated timelines from Bill 52, and Residential Flexibility in the ALR.*

A query was raised as to the status of previous applications; staff noted once applications have been to Council, they are forwarded to the ALC for decision soon thereafter. Decisions made by the ALC are forwarded to the Committee as they are received.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held at the call of the Chair.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm.

Councillor Harv Westeringh, Vice-Chair