



Area C Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual (Zoom) and In Person (SLRD Boardroom)

INTENT

The purpose of this meeting is to convene the Area C Agricultural Advisory Committee to review, discuss and provide comments/recommendations to the Board on agricultural issues.

The key objective for the meeting is as follows:

1. Appoint a Chair for the 2023 year
2. Follow-up discussion on Special Events Bylaw (Amendment Bylaw 1817-2023)

DRAFT PROPOSED AGENDA

Zoom Details: Webinar details have been emailed to committee members. Public Access: https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/62425682489?pwd=aXhTM3B2M2VpRWVleWVJQzZ1cVVRUT09 Passcode: 136532		
6:00pm – 6:15pm	Opening and Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • 2023 Membership Updates/Introductions • Review and Approval of Agenda • Appointment of Chair 	All
6:15pm – 6:45pm	Follow-up discussion on Special Events Bylaw (Amendment Bylaw 1817-2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLRD Staff presentation/update • AAC Discussion 	Anna Koterniak/all
6:45pm – 6:55pm	Any other items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Area C Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1742-2022 • Review and Approval of February Meeting Minutes at next meeting 	All
6:55pm – 7:00pm	Next Steps and Close of Meeting	All

Meeting Materials:

1. SLRD Staff Report for Special Events Bylaw No. 1247-2012, Amendment Bylaw No. 1817-2023 (attached)



REQUEST FOR INPUT
Special Events Bylaw No. 1247-2012,
Amendment Bylaw No. 1817-2023

Date: May 11, 2023

To: The Electoral Area C Agricultural Advisory Committee

KEY INFORMATION:

The SLRD amended Special Events Bylaw No. 1247-2012 on December 14, 2022. The amendment applies to gatherings that take place on farmland in Electoral Area C and Electoral Area D, where in addition to requirements listed under the ALR Use Regulation, hosts are also required to apply for a permit, prove that the farm is in production, and obtain insurance. This amendment report and bylaw can be accessed [here](#).

On March 22, 2023, Electoral Area C Director, Russell Mack, submitted the following recommendation for consideration by the Board:

THAT staff be directed to prepare an amendment to Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Special Events Bylaw No. 1247-2012 to remove Electoral Area C from the permitting system for regulating such events.

Based on the above recommendation, the SLRD Board made the following resolution with regard to the recent amendment to Special Events Bylaw No. 1247-2012:

THAT staff prepare, for the Board's consideration at a future Board meeting, a bylaw amendment for Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Special Events Bylaw No. 1247-2012 that removes Electoral Area C from the permitting system for regulating Farmland Special Events and when bringing back the associated staff report, staff include information about bylaw enforcement, noise complaints, and number of events.

This item is being brought to the Electoral C AAC for input prior to this item being presented to the Board.

BACKGROUND:

The use of agricultural land for the purpose of gathering for an event is a permitted use on lands classified as 'farm' under the *Assessment Act*. This use cannot be prohibited by the local government. A total of 10 "Gatherings for an event" are allowed on each farm.

The criteria for hosting a "gathering for an event" on farmland include the following (as noted in Provincial legislation and the Electoral Area C Zoning bylaw):

- (a) a gathering of people on a farm for the purposes of attending the following activities:
 - (i) A wedding, unless (iii)(.2) applies,
 - (ii) A music festival, or
 - (iii) An event, other than .1 an event held for the purpose of agritourism, or .2 the celebration, by residents of the farm and those persons whom they invite, of a family event for which no fee or other charge is payable in connection with the event by invitees.

- (b) The activities identified in (a)(i)-(iii):
- (i) must be carried out on land that is classified as a farm under the Assessment Act.
 - (ii) must be to which members of the public are ordinarily invited, with or without a fee.
 - (iii) must not use, construct, or erect any permanent facilities. No existing permanent facilities may be used, or converted for use, without an approved non-farm use application and a valid building permit for assembly use.
 - (iv) must be accessory to and related to the principal use of the property, which is farming.
 - (v) must be in compliance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act, and the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision, and Procedure Regulation.
- (c) No more than 10 gatherings for an event of any type, or such other number as may be allowed by the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Regulation, may occur on the farm within a single calendar year and no more than 150 people, excluding residents and employees of the farm, may be gathered on the farm at one time for the purpose of attending the event.
- (d) No single event can be more than 24 hours in duration.

The **Special Events Bylaw No. 1247-2012** sets out the following additional requirements for getting a permit:

- The farm must produce a minimum of \$10,000 of gross annual income;
- An application, in writing, for a Permit to hold a Farmland Special Event shall be made to the Regional District office not less than Sixty (60) days, nor more than Two Hundred and Seventy (270) days, before the first day on which such a Special Event is to be held. The application must include information on the number of attendees, how the neighbours will be notified, and a site plan showing all buildings/structures.
- As a condition of granting a Farmland Special Events Permit, the Regional District will require proof of insurance to cover the agreement to indemnify and save harmless the Regional District, as follows: Commercial General Liability of \$1,500,000 minimum per occurrence in Canadian funds;

DISCUSSION:

Within the past 5 years, seven formal complaints related to farmland events in Area C were registered with the SLRD. The complaints involved 6 different properties and raised the following concerns:

- noise impacting farm animals and general enjoyment of property;
- setbacks from neighbours for event tents and porta-potties;
- traffic caused by events and decreased road safety;
- commercialization of farmland;
- increased fire risks;
- trespass and erosion of community character and cohesion.

SUMMARY:

Based on the request from Electoral Area C Director Russell Mack to remove Electoral Area C from the Special Events permitting requirements, this report is being brought forward to the Electoral Area C AAC for their further input.



Written by: Anna Koterniak, Planning and GIS Technician
Reviewed by: Kim Needham, Director of Planning and Development Services