



Making a difference...together

SALT SPRING ISLAND MARKET ADVISORY GROUP

Notice of Meeting on **Monday, November 26, 2018 at 4:30 PM**

Portlock Park Meeting Room, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC

Malcolm Legg (Chair-Public)

Sean Goddard (Vendor)

Bree Eagle (Vendor)

Donna Johnstone (Fabric)

Peri Lavender (Island Natural Growers)

Anne Byrne (Pottery)

Donna Cochran (Basketry)

Rosemary Trump (Public)

Tye O'Connor (Vendor)

Sonja Collombin (PARC)

Alvaro Sanchez (Jewelry)

Grant Wickland (Woodworkers)

Li Read (Chamber of Commerce)

Rob Pingle (Coordinator)

(r) = Regrets

AGENDA

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Adoption of Minutes of March 8, 2018

3. Delegation/Presentation

3.1

4. Director and Chair Reports

5. Outstanding Business

5.1

6. New Business

6.1 2018 Saturday Market Season Overview

6.2 2019 Saturday Market Fees and Charges

6.3 2019 Exemption Requests

That the Salt Spring Island Market Advisory Group recommends to the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission that staff approve all exemption requests for the 2018 market season and further that a notice be sent out in the fall requesting exemption requests for the 2019 market season.

8. Rise and Report

9. Next Meeting March 2019

To ensure quorum, advise Tracey Shaver 250 537 4448 if you cannot attend.

ITEM 6.2

SATURDAY MARKET IN THE PARK		
PERMITS (subject to applicable tax)	2018 Jan 1 – Dec 31	2019 Jan 1 – Dec 31
Seasonal	\$ 198.18 (208.09) per season	\$ 208.09 (218.49) per season
Farm	\$ 198.18 (208.09) per season	\$ 208.09 (218.49) per season
Day	\$ 6.31 (6.63) per day	\$ 6.63 (6.96) per day
Not-for-Profit	\$ 0.95 (1.00) per season	\$ 1.00 (1.05) per season
Youth Vendor	\$ 0.95 (1.00) per season	\$ 1.00 (1.05) per season
Busker	\$ 0.95 (1.00) per season	\$ 1.00 (1.05) per season
Off-Season	\$ 27.14 (28.50) per off-season	\$ 28.50 (29.93) per off-season
LINEAR CHARGES FOR TABLE DISPLAY SPACE (subject to applicable tax) (Maximum 8 feet frontage, unless grandfathered)	2018 Jan 1 – Dec 31	2018 Jan 1 – Dec 31
Seasonal	\$ 2.38 (2.50) frontage foot / day	\$ 2.50 (2.63) frontage foot / day
Farm	\$ 2.38 (2.50) frontage foot / day	\$ 2.50 (2.63) frontage foot / day
Day	\$ 2.38 (2.50) frontage foot / day	\$ 2.50 (2.63) frontage foot / day
OTHER (Subject to applicable tax)		
Power	\$ 27.14 (28.50) per off-season where available	\$ 28.50 (29.93) per off-season where available
Wash Station/Water	\$ 38.10 (40.00) per season	\$ 40.00 (42.00) per season



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**REPORT TO MARKET ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING OF THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2018**

ITEM 6.3

SUBJECT REVIEW OF EXEMPTION REQUEST FOR THE 2019 MARKET SEASON

ISSUE

Market vendors who do not qualify for farm classification under BC Assessment may appeal to the Market Advisory Group (MAG) for an exemption.

BACKGROUND

The Saturday Market has been operating at capacity for a number of years. Staff and vendors have witnessed vendors modifying their products to meet the requirement of a farmer so that they can be given priority placement and gain access to the market ahead of day vendors whom are assigned space based on a point system. For this reason the Farmer definition was updated in the fall of 2016 to ensure priority placement in the market is given to qualified farm vendors.

New Farmer Definition:

- 1) "Farmer" - a resident who vends eligible farm products as defined by the BC Assessment Authority on land classified for farming purposes that the farmer owns or leases. Eligibility is determined by valid BC assessment indicating farm status or a valid BC Farmer ID Card:
 - a) A farmer is permitted to sell value-added products whose contents, by volume, contain at least 50% of the product they have received farmer certification for.
 - i) All value added farm product vendors must have their products reviewed by a Market Advisory Group subcommittee to ensure the product complies with market guidelines and the spirit of the market.
 - b) A farmer may use 10% of their booth space to sell non-farmed products as long as they have been produced by the farmer and follow the regular market guidelines.
 - c) A farmer definition includes a vendor who leases land for the purpose of farming from the Salt Spring Island Farm Land Trust.
 - d) Farmers who do not qualify for farm classification under BC Assessment may appeal to the Market Advisory Group.

At the March 8, 2018 MAG meeting the following motion was passed

That the Salt Spring Island Market Advisory Group recommends to the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission that staff approve all exemption requests for the 2018 market season and further that a notice be sent out in the fall requesting exemption requests for the 2019 market season.

A notice was sent out to vendors and two exemption requests were received (Attachment A and B). The requests come from vendors that have been recognized as farmers in previous years but both farm on less than one acre of land making it more difficult to obtain farm status or a valid BC Farmer ID Card.

ALTERNATIVES

That the Salt Spring Island Market Advisory Group recommends to the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission that staff:

1. Approve exemption requests in Attachment A and B for the 2019 market season and further grandfather the vendors in Attachment A and B to recognize them as a Farmer in future market seasons.
2. That the report be referred back to staff for further review

CONCLUSION

Review of exemption requests should take place in the fall well in advance of the market season to allow for adequate notice to successful and unsuccessful vendors.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Salt Spring Island Market Advisory Group recommends to the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission that staff Approve exemption requests in Attachment A and B for the 2019 market season and further grandfather the vendors in Attachment A and B to recognize them as a Farmer in future market seasons.

Dan Ovington
Parks and Recreation Manager

Attachment A – Offhand Farm
Attachment B – Salt Spring Artisan Vinegar

ATTACHMENT A

Hi Dan and MAG members,

I would like to submit a request for exemption, to ensure I am able to take part in the Saturday market in 2019

My business is called Offhand Farm. I request to be recognized as a farmer regardless of the fact my farm does not have farm tax status.

I should be classified as a farmer because I grow produce for market and have been growing produce for sale at the Saturday market as a farmer for the last 3 years.

On our small piece of rented land we grow a variety of vegetables, and we market them exclusively at the Tuesday and Saturday markets. We really need access to both markets.

In 2019 we intend to grow for market: kohlrabi, radishes, arugula, kale, cabbage, cucumbers, winter squash, carrots, cilantro, dill, garlic, onions, beans, peas, sweet peppers, hot peppers, tomatoes, basil and other herbs, microgreens, spinach, lettuce, other greens and more.

We do also produce some value added goods, making sure to keep them within the farmer guidelines of the Saturday market, These have been a fairly small portion of what we sell, and will be still less of our focus in 2019.

The fact that I farm on less than an acre, on rented land, especially on rented land where the owner does not himself sell agricultural products, makes it extra difficult to obtain farm tax status. Even if it is possible, it would be an extraordinary amount of work and provide no benefits to me. More importantly the owner is not interested in applying for farm tax status.

To continue to grow food for people on Salt Spring Island I need to know I can get into the market every Saturday in a consistent location, I cannot afford to risk growing, harvesting, cleaning, packing and going to market and possibly not having a place to sell my produce.

Thank you,

Lee Fairbrother

ATTACHMENT B

Hi Dan and MAG members,

My name is Bree Eagle, I'm the owner/operator of Salt Spring Artisan Vinegar and a long time market vendor. I first started selling in the market in 1990 when I was 7 years old. For the next 22 years I sold farm produce alongside my parents, eventually becoming a full partner in their business, Bright Farm. Six years ago I left the farm and began making vinegars which I have continued to sell as a farm vendor.

The changes to the farmer definition will affect me this year. I want to be clear that I fully support the changes, in fact I helped to write them. And if I lose my spot in the market because of them I will (sadly) accept that. I would, however, like to have my status as a farmer considered by the MAG.

Admittedly, I don't qualify as a farmer at first glance. But I do think I have a case worth examining...

First, it's important to know that I make my vinegars 100% from scratch, meaning that I ferment fruit or herbs into wine which I then double ferment into vinegar. The end result is vinegar that is MADE from the fruit, not simply infused with it. In this way, my products easily satisfy the 50% farmed content requirement for value added products. So the question is, do I "farm" my fruits and herbs?

While I do grow as many of my fruits and herbs as I possibly can (including apples, pears, lemon balm, tarragon, basil, lavender, rose petals and chilis) I live on a small property (less than one acre) and will never be able to grow the \$10,000 worth of produce needed to qualify for farm status. The things I grow myself account for roughly 20% of my vinegars.

Another 20% of my fruit is wildcrafted, blackberries and rose hips mostly, but also some herbs such as stinging nettle and wild mint. To tell the truth, I'm not sure what the rules currently say about wildcrafting, but I do know that it was once classified as farming...for example, fishing, wild mushroom harvesting, etc.

The bulk of my fruit, around 50%, comes from what I call "care" cropping (as opposed to sharecropping). I make deals with islanders who have too much fruit and too little time to care for the trees or bushes that produce it. I maintain plum trees and currant bushes, raspberry canes and grape vines around the island. In exchange I harvest the fruit they produce and use it to make my vinegars. Based on the amount of work it demands it sure feels like farming to me!

I do purchase some of my fruit, things like peaches or specific grape varieties that I can't find on-island. But this is a small part of my business and never takes up more than 10% of my display space, leaving the other 90% to be filled by products I consider to be "farmed", one way or another, by me.

Thanks very much for your time and patience in examining my circumstances. I appreciate very well how difficult it is to draw these lines and will respect your decision.

Bree Eagle
Salt Spring Artisan Vinegar

Dan Ovington

From: SSI Parc
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 3:04 PM
To: Dan Ovington
Subject: FW: Mag

Categories: MARKET

-----Original Message-----

From: Claire Ryder [mailto:highvibefood@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 2:47 PM
To: SSI Parc <ssiparc@crd.bc.ca>
Subject: Mag

I have 2 ideas for the meeting

1. Would the crd be willing to spend some of the funds that are generated at the market , on hiring a musician for a portion of the market?

The place that the marimba band once played was remarkable. It set the mood for the people both looking and vending. It gives the tourist a more memorable visit, and Spreads money around our community

Maybe a three hour gig.

2. I was disappointed with the "market in the park" annual magazine last year. It was much thinner with less on the crafters and more on the alcohol . It would be more in keeping with the saltspring style, to use that magazine to attract tourists visiting the Island, so when they open it up they can read about what they are coming here for. we are what brings many many folks onto the island, to go to the saturday market and connect with , The crafters, the Farmers, the food venters, the artist, the music.

Why was there a cut back on the funds that were allotted for the annual magazine? The pictures were poor quality, and it was smaller than other years.

this a concern I have.

That we put out to folks ..we are vibrant.!

Claire Ryder
High vibe foods

Sent from my iPad