



Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the  
Development Permit Panel  
meeting held on Wednesday,  
June 10, 2020.

<b>To Development Permit Panel</b>
Date: <u>JUNE 10, 2020</u>
Item # <u>1</u>
Re: <u>DP 19-876647</u>

June 5, 2020

Your Worship, Mayor Brodie and Councillors,

Farmers throughout Richmond have learned that a local, long-term bona fide farmer of 17720 River Road has been asked by the Development Permit Panel to sign a restrictive covenant.

An email from Stephen Easterbrook states that this restrictive covenant is required as a condition of building a new home with a secondary suite to house foreign farmworkers.

We have significant concerns about this request and see it as unreasonable and as over-reach on the part of the Development Permit Panel.

The farmer is requesting two minor variances which will help facilitate the functioning and viability of his farm. It's clear that he has taken extensive efforts at significant costs to comply with all City requirements including keeping his proposed home, which includes farm worker housing in the home, within the 400m2 house size limit.

The glaring concern is the covenant being required to assure that the suite within the home only be occupied by foreign farm workers. In the case they may be seasonal workers, under the Federal Seasonal Agricultural Worker program, foreign farm workers are prohibited from staying in Canada more than eight months. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/permit/agricultural-workers-work-temporarily.html>

A farmer, during these months may need to use the suite for other purposes that suit the farm. In the case of longer term non-seasonal farm workers, why only foreign workers? What if extended family wishes to work on the farm, or local farm workers or farm workers from another province? Also there are any number of reasons such as aging, disabilities or extended family circumstances that a farmer, or any homeowner, may need to use a suite in their home. Secondary permanent dwellings have been conditional to farm use, but never secondary suites in the primary residence.

We are asking that you review this very concerning matter and ensure that the Development Permit Panel understands that Council promised farmers, after extensive consultation including several public hearings, that farmers would be able to build to suit their needs.

Council implemented farm house size limits to stop speculators and investors. This was never intended to cause hardship to farmers in their living and farming activities. It is your responsibility to ensure the Development Permit Panel give farmers the flexibility they might need.

Yours sincerely,

Richmond FarmWatch

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