

2014-02-24 Ag Commission Minutes

Tuesday, May 06, 2014

Brooklyn Agriculture Commission
Tuesday, February 24, 2014
Brooklyn Town Hall

Present: Lou Brodeur, Joyce Meader, Charlie Langevin, Stan Karro
Guests: Sandy Brodeur, Sally Timmons
Betsy Molodich & Frank Anastasio, Northeast CT Farmers Market Association

Minutes from January 2014 approved.

New Business:

Northeast CT Farmers Market Association

Betsy Molodich (president) and Frank Anastasio (Brooklyn market master) shared the Brooklyn market situation at the Ocean State Job Lot plaza.

- Farmers Market in Brooklyn has grown in sales. Getting very busy.
- They do need fruit (Palazzi has pulled out). C.Langevin shared that he has an orchard rent free for someone to maintain and harvest. Benjamin's Orchard a possibility?
- The commuters who park in the market space Wed AM, forget and create a challenge.
- Parking is the most important market requirement. 60 spots are needed.
- The Putnam Monday has a Community Supported Market.
- A building would be attractive but would be weighed against the loss of commercial businesses nearby and convenient parking.
- Entertainment shows up to get exposure in Putnam (electricity available)
- Sky Johnson is applying for a mobile food truck using local foods.
- Non-profits are selling baked goods.
- Need help on Saturdays trying to deliver surplus vegetables to the food pantry, Monday.
- SNAP: Wireless access is \$37/ machine. Each location needs a separate machine.
 - Brooklyn pays 17% in fees for SNAP. Danielson and Putnam received more food stamps than Brooklyn, so percent of sales in fees is less.
- Wholesome Wave subsidizes Putnam market purchases by WIC families by doubling their purchases.
- Senior Citizen vouchers are also in Putnam.

- Public transport brings senior citizens to Putnam.
- Need to ask if public transit would bring non-drivers to Brooklyn market.
- Permanent signs are needed at Job Lot to keep out commuters.

The Ag Commission asked if another site would be attractive, such as the Don Francis Recreational Park. J. Meader questioned if there is sufficient parking at the town property. The Putnam structure was discussed. Lots of grant money and in-kind contribution. F. Anastasio reminded us of the structure maintenance costs for the town.

Election of Officer for 2014

Nomination for President– Lou Brodeur

Nomination for Vice President - Charles Langevin

Nomination for Secretary – Joyce Meader

Secretary cast one ballot for the slate. Vote unanimous.

Ag Commission Display for public events

Display board borrowed from Extension Center. J. Meader will print photos of the town farms at the town hall on photographic paper, and paste onto white backing.

S. Timmons will look at the on-line table cloths with logo of Brooklyn and Agriculture Commission. Up Top printers will be contacted for price of table cloth.

New Business

Walktober:

S. Karro suggested walk and historical tour of the Golden Lamb property, including walk down to the water. He will contact Katie and Jim Booth about a date (if they are interested).

Ag Commission Educational Events:

Pomfret: Bee Keeping Information Event

Killingly: Burlingame Sheep Farm Tour

Adjourned 8:50 PM

Next Meeting: March 25, 2014

Sincerely,

Joyce E. Meader, Secretary