

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday, November 24, 2015
7:00 PM
Town Hall

MINUTES

I. Call To Order – Chairman, Lou Brodeur called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call (5 regular and 2 alternates)

Members Present:

Lou Brodeur, Chair; Charles Langevin, Vice Chair; Sandra Brodeur; Stanley Karro; Joyce Meader; Deborah Tanner, Alternate; Sally Timmons, Alternate.

III. Seat alternates if necessary – No Alternates were seated.

IV. Review minutes from October 27, 2015 Meeting

L. Brodeur, mentioned that the motion to adjourn had been seconded by Alternate Member, S. Timmons. It was noted that the motion to adjourn does not need a second.

Motion by C. Langevin to accept the Minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2015, as presented.

Second by S. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Public Participation – None.

VI. Old Business:

A. Committee report for: “History of Agriculture in Brooklyn.”

S. Karro stated that there was no meeting this month. He discussed an article which had been published in 2001 regarding the broiler (poultry) industry in Connecticut.

At this time, J. Meader stated that she found another correction to the Minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2015. On Page 2, during discussion regarding chicken farmers, she noted that Sam Alexander did not write the draft regulations. He only suggested that a sample management plan be included. Discussion ensued.

It was decided to delete the following sentence from the Minutes: “The consensus of the Commission was that the draft regulations proposed by Sam Alexander are the ones that should be sent to Planning and Zoning.”

Motion by C. Langevin to withdraw his motion to accept the Minutes of October 27, 2015. Second by S. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by S. Brodeur to accept the Minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2015, including the following two corrections:

- No second for motion to adjourn.
- Delete sentence on Page 2, “The consensus of the Commission was that the draft regulations proposed by Sam Alexander are the ones that should be sent to Planning and Zoning.”

Second by S. Karro. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Further discussion on (home owner) chicken farmers in residential areas and review regulations as purposed to be presented to P&Z.

Discussion ensued regarding whether a management plan is required for backyard chickens. S. Timmons stated that it had been discussed at the last meeting that it would only be required for small lots (R10 and R30). S. Brodeur stated that it is important for someone from the Ag Commission to represent the farmers if zoning laws are changed so that the Ag Commission can make recommendations where it sees fit.

Motion by J. Meader to submit the Commission's recommendations for suggested revisions to the Brooklyn Zoning Regulations regarding agricultural activities in residential zones R10 and R30 to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Second by S. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously.

C. 490 Program presented by Joan Nichols. Setup and discussion for future meeting (date, place, etc.)

D. Tanner stated that the date of January 14, 2016 has been set with January 21st as a snow date, 6:00 p.m., at the Brooklyn Middle School. Cost of \$75.00 (which may be reimbursed). Also included will be a 20-25 minute presentation for beginning farmers (rules and regulations). Joan will take care of flyers and publicity and will contact all Windham County Ag Commissions. No eating is allowed in the school auditorium, but can serve refreshments in the lobby (this will be discussed next month). The Commission will set up its display.

S. Timmons stated that the quarterly Ag Commission meeting in January will be separate.

Motion by S. Karro to authorize up to \$125.00 to be spent for the 490 Program presentation to be held January 14, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Brooklyn Middle School Auditorium. Second by C. Langevin. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Sandy to report on "Agriculture Farm Viability Grant" as discussed with Recreation.

S. Brodeur reported that she got the paperwork to the Director of Recreation, Bucky Lohbusch, who spoke with First Selectman, Rick Ives, about it. Mr. Ives stated that this should not be prepared by the Recreation Commission and that it should be handled through the Town, but there is not time to do it now. Discussion ensued as to whether this might come up again next year.

S. Brodeur suggested that if the Ag Commission feels that this is something worth looking at, the Commission should speak with the Recreation Director to come up with a proposal (with an estimated price) to present to the Town. D. Tanner stated that if there is a matching grant, you could get more people involved in fundraising and there would be more vested in it. S. Timmons suggested that it is best to have a project in mind before being asked to write a grant.

Discussion ensued regarding a community garden on Town-owned property behind the Community Center. S. Brodeur stated that she feels that this project would be a good goal for the Ag Commission. S. Timmons stated that there are a lot of questions that need to be answered. The main concern was with who will care enough to tend the beds. A volunteer may be needed.

It will be kept on the agenda for next month. S. Brodeur will speak with Frank Anastasio and Bucky Lohbusch.

VII. New Business:

A. Set meeting dates for 2016.

Schedules were included the packets to the Commission Members for their review.

Motion by C. Langevin to approve the 2016 meeting dates as presented: January 26, February 23, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, November 22, and December 27. All meetings to be held in the Town Hall Conference Room on the first floor at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Second by S. Karro. Motion carried unanimously.

B. January is our annual meeting and election of officers.

C. Brodeur stated that the 2016 annual meeting will be held in January as stated in the Regulations.

C. Other new business

- There was discussion regarding the quarterly Ag Meeting.
- S. Timmons asked if the news article thing fell off the agenda. J. Meader stated that Denise at the Reminder is doing such a great job that there is no need to put in more articles about farms. S. Timmons and S. Brodeur stated that they still like the idea of collecting photographs though. L. Brodeur suggested putting them of FaceBook.

VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting – There was no discussion.

IX. Adjourn (Next meeting December 22, 2015).

Motion by S. Brodeur to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. There was no second to the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Acting Recording Secretary