

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday, April 25, 2017
7:00 PM
Town Hall

MINUTES

I. **Call To Order** – Chairperson, Lou Brodeur called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. **Roll Call (5 Regular and 3 Alternates)**

Members Present:

Lou Brodeur, Chairperson; Charles Langevin, Vice Chairperson; Stanley Karro, Anne Ennis (4 Members needed for quorum.)

Deborah Tanner arrived at 7:17 p.m.

Sandra Brodeur and Sally Timmons were absent with notification.

Joyce Meader was absent.

III. **Seat alternates if necessary** – None.

IV. **Review minutes from March 28, 2017 Meeting**

Motion was made by C. Langevin to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 28, 2017, as presented. Second by A. Ennis. Motion carried (4-0-0). D. Tanner had not arrived yet.

V. **Public Participation** – None.

VI. **Old Business:**

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

S. Karro stated that he had nothing new to report.

At this time, there was discussion regarding an event which will be taking place in Canterbury.

B. Snap machine purchase for Brooklyn Farmer Market?

L. Brodeur stated that from Betsy Mulovich (from Voluntown) sent a message that they are not interested because there is too much confusion due to everyone using only one Snap machine and that nobody wants to assume the responsibility for it. She feels it is not needed. Mr. Brodeur stated that it should be tabled until next year.

C. Walktober update?

A. Ennis stated that she filled out the form and the tentative date is October 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She and Joyce Meader are listed as the contacts.

- If the road is shut down, Joyce will walk people down the road to the cornfield.
- A. Ennis should be able to get free cheese for samples and maybe something for children.

- A vet talk was suggested. Ms. Ennis stated that it is a possibility if her mom is not working.

Ms. Ennis reviewed what she had done in the past: care of the calves; milking barn; milk room; cheese samples; corn silage; haylage; equipment; Joyce walked to the cornfields on Ennis Road (Ms. Ennis checked with Rudy Rzeznikewicz and he is okay with this for this year).

Joyce would like to have a demonstration of some kind.

D. Family Day Picnic update?

L. Brodeur stated that S. Brodeur spoke with Diane Wimmer of the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission would like to do something such as give away plants and also something for the children.

Deborah Tanner arrived at 7:17 p.m.

D. Tanner stated that she has items for this event, however, she has a family wedding to attend that weekend.

L. Brodeur stated that S. Brodeur will probably be calling people to see if they can help out.

The following two Items (E. and F.) were added to the Agenda.

E. Read Across Connecticut.

L. Brodeur reported that S. Timmons read to nine classes and has one more to do, but she has been having difficulty setting up a time to do the last one.

It was stated that K. Karro did one class, S. Brodeur did one class, and J. Meader did one class.

There was a brief discussion about the program.

F. South Brooklyn Solar Project.

L. Brodeur stated that S. Brodeur had spoken with Ranger Solar regarding putting in Pollinator Gardens in between the panels. The company that will be operating the farm who also operates them in Vermont is receptive to the idea because it doesn't cost them any more to seed it. It will benefit the bees and it will look nice. S. Brodeur will keep pushing it.

S. Karro stated that he had sent the link (article) that S. Brodeur had provided to Roy Pipe in Canterbury.

VII. New Business:

A. Any other business to come before this meeting.

L. Brodeur stated that the New Roxbury Land Trust in the Eastern CT Forest Landowners Association are doing a presentation on Roseland Lake in Woodstock on invasive species. An information sheet was passed around and there was some discussion regarding Japanese Barberry and Lyme disease.

D. Tanner asked if S. Brodeur had been able to get in touch with Joan Nichols regarding the Food Safety Program. L. Brodeur stated that the Ag Commission voted not to do it last month. D. Tanner stated that Joan asked her if there was any possibility of doing it in May or June. L. Brodeur stated that it was thought that most of the farmers would be too busy at that time of the year.

There was more discussion regarding Barberry and other invasives.

There was discussion as to whether more signs are needed. The four signs are in good shape, but a place could be found for another one. There was discussion regarding putting up permanent signs.

S. Karro suggested promoting/advertising, seasonally, the Brooklyn farmers (e.g. vegetables, Christmas trees) to make people aware of what is in their backyard. Members liked the idea and L. Brodeur stated that it should be given some thought and that it could be discussed next month.

S. Karro stated that 10,000 Christmas trees and 100 apple trees were planted and there is enthusiasm. There was discussion regarding the Jones' Family Farm in Shelton where they are planting grapes and producing wine. It is about the next generation doing something different, but still using the land.

VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting – None.

IX. Adjourn (Next meeting May 23, 2017)

Motion was made by D. Tanner to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Second by C. Langevin. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary