

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday, June 27, 2017
7:00 PM
Town Hall

MINUTES

I. **Call to Order** – Chairperson, Lou Brodeur called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Lou Brodeur, Chairperson; Charles Langevin, Vice Chairperson; Anne Ennis, Stanley Karro, Sandra Brodeur. Joyce Meader arrived at 7:09 p.m.

Sally Timmons was absent with notification. Deborah Tanner was absent.

Also Present: Aaron Kerouac and Josh King.

III. **Seat alternates if necessary** - Sandra Brodeur was seated as a Voting Member.

IV. **Review minutes from May 23, 2017 Meeting**

Motion was made by A. Ennis to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 23, 2017, as presented. Second by S. Brodeur. Motion carried (5-0-0).

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 – in progress.

B. **We voted to spend up to \$500.00 for new signs to advertise the farmers market in Brooklyn. Doug Gagnon can make 2 double sided signs 4X3 for \$400.00. Can we put these up? He says that we need 8’ 4x4’s and bury about 2 feet. One will go on route 6 between Brooklyn farm store and the old grange and one on Gorman just off 205.**

L. Brodeur stated that a quote had been obtained from Gagnon for 2 double-sided signs, 4’ X 3’, for \$400.00 (copies of a sample sign were provided in the packets to Commission Members). Proposed locations: One on route 6 between Brooklyn Farm Store and the Old Grange and one on Gorman Road just off Route 205. Colors to be used for the signs to be green, black and white.

Mr. Brodeur consulted with ZEO, Martha Fraenkel regarding the Zoning Regulations for the two proposed locations: one on route 6 between Brooklyn Farm Store and the Old Grange and one on Gorman Road just off Route 205. Being that it is advertisement for the Farmers’ Market, which is a Town function, the signs can go up 30 days before and must be taken down 10 days following the last date and no permit would be required from the Town. 3’ x 4’ is of legal size. The sign for Route 6 could require a permit from the State, however, they don’t usually remove Town-related signs. A. Kerouac stated that the State may require a special-type frame if in a State right-of-way. It was suggested to keep it 10 feet off of the pavement.

Proposed signs to be fastened to a 4' X 4' (in the ground) with vinyl tubing covering which provided protection from the weather. Mr. Brodeur suggests using concrete to permanently install the 4" x 4" posts in the ground and just remove the signs at the end of the season.

L. Brodeur will check to confirm that the Northeast Farmers' Market and Ocean State will still be there for the next few years.

A. Kerouac suggested that wording regarding the support of local farmers be added to the sign so that it would not need to be taken down (it would be considered a political sign). There was discussion. There was a consensus to add, "Support Your Local Farmers."

It was decided that the signs would be taken down for the winter, but that the posts would remain in the ground. There was discussion regarding mowing. J. Meader pointed out a typo on the sign: should be Farmers' Market, not Farmer's Market. A. Kerouac mentioned that Ocean State is now called ECONN Plaza. It can be amended when/if necessary.

There was a consensus to move forward with the signs.

A. Ennis offered to help with installing the posts by supplying the post-hole digger. Josh King will also help.

L. Brodeur will order the signs June 28th and they will be ready in about a week.

C. Walktober update?

To be held October 14, 2017 at 11:00 am.

Traffic to be blocked (at both ends) for 15 minutes to allow the walk from the farmstead to the second opening to where the dirt road is to get to the hay field (where there will be discussion regarding annual vs. perennial). There will be communication (phone call) as to when to block traffic again for another 15 minutes for the walk back to the farmstead (where someone will give a history of the farm). There was discussion regarding boots: J. Meader will purchase slip-over boots and submit the bill (approximately \$.50 per pair). S. Brodeur suggested getting it in this year's budget. Ms. Meader will also purchase hand sanitizer.

A. Ennis will contact Cabot for cheese.

There was discussion regarding what will be available for viewing at the farm.

J. Meader will also bring parking signs. There was discussion regarding parking.

D. Sandy to update on joint venture with Conservation Commission at family fun day?

S. Brodeur stated that Family Fun Day was held inside the Better Living Building and explained that they ended up using Mung Beans instead of the green bean seeds (which were coated and the Poison Control Center would need to be called if ingested). It was a success. Ms. Brodeur will supply the NASA website that she used.

E. South Brooklyn Solar project. No update at this time.

A. Kerouac explained that there are no hearing dates set yet. The CSC received the letter from Canterbury on the 19th. In July, it will be determined if a public hearing is needed. He is waiting for a schedule to be posted. He stated that letters that have been submitted have been positive and that anyone can submit. Discussion ensued regarding a pollinator garden and the seed that would be used. A. Kerouac gave information regarding the CSC website.

VII. New Business:

- A.** Sally Timmons has sold her house and will be moving out of town. She informed me that she is resigning as a member of the Ag Commission. We need to find someone to be an alternate member.

They are raising oysters on an aqua farm in the Stonington area and are looking to relocate there.

A letter of resignation is needed before a replacement Alternate Member can be sought.

B. Any other business to come before this meeting.

There was discussion regarding pesticides/herbicides. J. Meader offers testing for licensing. There may be interest. J. Meader stated that the DEEP website offers information for anyone interested in getting licensed. Is there interest in holding a class regarding pesticide application. J. Meader stated that there are conferenced that people can attend.

There was discussion regarding the Last Green Valley which received a \$4 million grant to go for permanent conservation easements of forest land for bird habitats (10 species).

VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting

IX. Adjourn (Next meeting July 25, 2017)

Motion was made by S. Brodeur to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Second by A. Ennis. Motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary