

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday September 26, 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 7:02 p.m.

Also Present: Aaron Kerouac

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

IV. Review minutes from August 22, 2017 Meeting

Motion was made by C. Langevin to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 22, 2017, as presented. Second by S. Karro. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

V. Public Participation – None.

J. Meader arrived at 7:02 p.m.

VI. Old Business:

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

S. Karro stated that he will begin having a History Report again after the first weekend in November.

B. New sign is complete and needs to be put up on Gorman Road.

L. Brodeur reported that the sign is complete and that he and C. Langevin will be installing it within the next couple of weeks. C. Langevin may have some Quick-Crete.

C. Walktober update? Do we need help for this event or does it run itself?

A. Ennis reported:

- October 14th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The corn field will still have corn in it, so they will have to walk to the bottom of the hill in the road.
- She will have cheese. Nick from Agrimark will provide something for the kids (possibly coloring books).
- She and J. Meader will be speaking.

S. Meader will order disposable boots (\$.50 per pair) and will be reimbursed. S. Brodeur offered to purchase left-over pairs.

Both ends of the road will be blocked off (one way) for approximately 1.5 – 2 hours.

L. Brodeur will purchase a couple cases of bottled water.

There may be some Last Green Valley Promotional Flyers. A. Ennis will check.

A. Ennis has two signs and two sign holders.

J. Meader will bring markers and a table.

D. Sandy to update on Brooklyn Fair booth. The fair gave us a small area on the outside wall of the old exhibition hall. It worked out fine, but you needed to unlock every morning at 10am and close it at 10 pm.

S. Brodeur reported:

- Location was moved to a double-wide room inside the Main Gate (where the firemen gave out doughnuts for Memorial Day). This space is dedicated to the Agricultural Commission indefinitely and can be used year round. She suggested that it be painted and spruced up a bit. It was suggested that the Conservation Commission be asked if they'd like to share the space. S. Brodeur will check with them. There was discussion regarding J. Meader's suggestion that there be an invasive plants display. S. Karro offered the use of a touch-screen kiosk. There are UCONN fact sheets for people who may have questions.
- The bottles of beans were all given away.

E. South Brooklyn Solar project. What do we want to pursue on this project? We originally talk of pollinator fields and now I hear talk of grazing sheep around the panels. There was a hearing the other night, but the town failed to publish the meeting and only 3 people heard about it and showed up to attend.

There was discussion regarding the lack of attendance. A. Kerouac explained that the public hearing was opened. They must have only walked certain spots of the property as they did it in only one hour. The evidentiary hearing and the public commentary were both continued until October 19th in New Britain. The Town and the PZC have not submitted letters yet. The CSC has only received two letters from residents. Discussion continued. The Commission Members were all in favor of a pollinator garden, but no one thought that grazing sheep would work there.

There was a consensus that the Commission submit a letter requesting that the developer of the project install a pollinator garden as was done successfully in Vermont. J. Meader will draft the letter and submit it to L. Brodeur for his review. Ms. Meader will include a recommendation for the seed mix (conservation seeding) and that the Commission has concerns regarding sheep grazing. There was discussion regarding what kind of seed to request.

There was discussion regarding the work that is being done currently and that stone walls are being removed.

S. Karro will research the Vermont community with the pollinator garden to contact them for information.

At this time, L. Brodeur explained that he had spoken with Betsey Mollovich who stated that they are happy, but they need vendors. She likes the idea of the permanent signs. Previously, vendors had been turned away. There was discussion. New farmers are being discouraged from participating in farmers' markets. Farmers are not making enough money

to make it worth the effort and they are mainly doing it for community spirit. Discussion continued. There was mention of advertising.

VII. New Business:

A. Sally Timmons was a member of the Killingly Vo-Ag advisory committee along with yours truly. We are looking for a new volunteer to fill this slot.

L. Brodeur explained that Ms. Timmons has resigned and that he has nominated Anne Ennis as a possible candidate. He explained the process. Ms. Ennis will submit a letter (outlining her qualifications) to Killingly High School. Mr. Brodeur explained the function of the Advisory Committee. There was discussion.

B. Any other business to come before this meeting.

J. Meader suggested that a mural on the Kingswood Farm barn (where the cows walk out) would beautify the view from the Ennis Road. A. Ennis suggested that Ms. Meader ask to see if they would be receptive to the idea.

VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting – No discussion.

IX. Adjourn (Next meeting October 24, 2017).

Motion was made by S. Karro to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Second by S. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary