

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday November 28, 2017
7:00 PM
Town Hall

MINUTES

I. Call to Order – Chairperson, Lou Brodeur called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call (5 Regular and 3 Alternates)

Lou Brodeur, Chairperson; Charles Langevin, Vice Chairperson; Anne Ennis; Sandra Brodeur. Stanley Karro and Joyce Meader were absent with notice.

Also Present: Josh King and Aaron Kerouac.

III. Seat alternates if necessary. No Alternate present.

IV. Review minutes from the October 24, 2017 Meeting.

Motion was made by C. Langevin to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 24, 2017, as presented. Second by A. Ennis. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

V. Public Participation

Aaron Kerouac stated that he had made a comment on the Brooklyn shared Face Book. He suggested that the Agriculture Commission do a segment regarding the Last Green Valley with a focus on farming.

VI. Old Business:

A. Committee report for: "History of Agriculture in Brooklyn." – No Report.

B. South Brooklyn Solar project. Letter sent to Sitting Council, vendor and local commissions.

L. Brodeur reported that the letter has not been sent yet.

C. Nothing new on Killingly Advisory appointment.

L. Brodeur stated that the Killingly FAA annual open house is this Friday (December 1st). There will be a lot of vendors.

D. Board of Selectmen have appointed Sandra Brodeur as full member.

The Commission now has five full members and one alternate member. There are two vacant alternate positions.

Mr. Brodeur asked if there was any other Old Business to discuss.

C. Langevin stated that they have stopped all wholesaling at his tree farm except for E.O. Smith Future Farmers.

VII. New Business:

- A. Attached is the meeting dates for 2018.

Motion was made by S. Brodeur to accept the 2018 Meeting Dates Schedule. Second by A. Ennis. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

- B. If nobody has a problem, I would like to cancel our meeting in December.

There was no objection to cancelling the December meeting. A notice will be posted.

- C. Reminder that the January meeting is our election of Officers.

Mr. Brodeur stated that a new Chairperson is needed.

- D. Discussion regarding new zoning regulations effecting farmers.

L. Brodeur stated that he and S. Brodeur had attended the last Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting where the draft regulations regarding Scenic Route 169 were discussed. Mr. and Mrs. Brodeur explained that they find that there are discrepancies in the draft language that would not be supportive of agriculture.

It was suggested that the Agriculture Commission Members sign up under the Town's website to receive notices of agendas and minutes to be aware of when farming topics are on the agenda.

There was discussion with Mr. Kerouac regarding temporary (removable) farm stands and permanent farm stands and the zones (and accessory to a farm or stand-alone) in which each would or would not be allowed under the draft regulations.

There was discussion regarding wineries.

There was discussion regarding not being allowed to park tractor trailer trucks on farms along Route 169 (Scenic Overlay). A. Kerouac suggested this may be easy to work on with the PZC because it is addressing one specific complaint (over a six year period). Mr. Kerouac also suggested that the Agriculture Commission review the NECCOG Report ("Corridor Management Plan") as it states that the towns (along Route 169) are predominantly farming communities. Mr. Kerouac feels that farm stands fit the aesthetics of a farming community. There was discussion regarding temporary and permanent farm stands.

S. Brodeur will send the Agricultural Commission Members copies of the minutes from the PZC meeting to review. She stated that she found that Jana Roberson (Director of Community Development) and the PZC were very open to suggestions and she suggested that the Agricultural Commission draft recommendations to present to the PZC. S. Brodeur will try to find out when the State designated Route 169 as a scenic by-way. Discussion continued. S. Brodeur will find the NECCOG Report and distribute it to the Agricultural Commission Members to review for a decision in January regarding how to proceed. L. Brodeur suggested making recommendations (on record) to the PZC. The Commission Members agreed.

The Agricultural Commission would like to be notified when agricultural topics come up on PZC agendas.

E. Attached is the meeting schedule for 2018. See above, Item VII.A.

F. Any other business to come before this meeting.

There was discussion regarding the South Brooklyn Solar Project. S. Brodeur will get another copy of the letter from J. Meader and make any necessary revisions and send it to the CSC.

There was discussion regarding trees that need to be trimmed/cut due to the recent storm.

VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting – None.

IX. Adjourn (Next meeting January 23, 2018)

Motion was made by S. Brodeur to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Second by A. Ennis. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary