

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday July 24, 2018
7:00 PM
Town Hall

MINUTES

I. **Call to Order** – Chairperson, Anne Ennis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

Anne Ennis, Chairperson; Charles Langevin, Vice Chairperson; Sandra Brodeur; Stanley Karro.

Lou Brodeur and Joyce Meader were absent with notice.

Also Present: Aaron Kerouac

III. Seat alternate if necessary – No alternate seated.

IV. Review minutes from April 24, 2018 Meeting

Motion was made by C. Langevin to accept the Minutes of the April 24, 2018 Regular Meeting as presented. Second by S. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

V. Public Participation

Aaron Kerouac stated that he would like feedback from farmers/Agricultural groups regarding the farm bill (SNAP) that recently passed through the Senate. Ms. Brodeur stated that it changed SNAP a little bit, but she does not think it will affect this area. Also, farms in this area are not big enough to qualify for the big Agri Business that got increased.

VI. Old Business:

A. Committee report for: "History of Agriculture in Brooklyn."

S. Karro did not have a report.

B. South Brooklyn Solar project. Joyce sending letter siting council requesting that pollinator plantings be included in the project. Letter also being sent to Conservation Commission, Brooklyn PZC, Canterbury Selectmen, and Canterbury Ag Commission.

Ms. Ennis stated that the letter has been sent. No discussion.

C. Nothing new on Killingly Advisory appointment. All Brooklyn Students that applied were accepted. We still have space for additional students that still want to apply.

Nothing new to report.

D. Suggestions for zoning map changes?

Mr. Kerouac identified what had been discussed by the Planning and Zoning Commission:

- Size of lots;
- Changes made to allow certain types of farming (bee keeping/chickens) where not currently allowed;

- Re-zoning;
- Farm Stands.

A meeting for public review of the Draft Regulations will be held on August 15th at the School.

E. Fair Booth Display

S. Brodeur and A. Ennis will meet during the week of August 12th. C. Langevin offered to help if needed. Ms. Brodeur will work to get the space cleared out. Ms. Ennis will contact Agri-Mark to solicit donations. Mr. Karro will drop off his photo placards (4 or 5) of the region just before the event. He will find out what will be needed to support the placards.

Mr. Karro stated that he had seen Betsy at the Farmers' Market. She mentioned that they are looking for more venders (cost is \$100, but \$50 is refunded at the end of the season).

Mr. Karro stated that, since two signs had been lost/taken, he would like to at least replace the sign at the intersection of Routes 6 and 169. The quote from Gagnon is \$90 for a two-sided sign (same as the previous one).

Motion was made by S. Brodeur to authorize up to \$125.00 to replace the sign that was at the corner of Routes 6 and 169 for the Farmers' Market. Second by C. Langevin. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

There was discussion regarding how the previous sign was lost. Once this new sign is received, there will be four signs:

- One for reserved parking at Ocean State Job Lot;
- One at the former Dunkin Donuts (Market Ahead), but may move this one to the location of KFC and Browning & Browning;
- And the new one at Routes 6 and 169;
- There is a permanent sign on Gorman Road also.

VII. New Business:

A. Any new business to come before this meeting.

- There was discussion regarding milk prices (not going up). Ms. Ennis reported that they were not be able to do much with the \$1,300 that was received. The situation is not good.
- There was discussion regarding the power company which has a road going through the Ennis corn field which prevents them from planting in that area.
- There was discussion regarding trespassers on dirt bikes and ATV's.
- There was discussion regarding the Arbor Acres property on Stetson Road owned by Billy Carver. S. Karro had received an e-mail from Joyce Meader asking the Ag Commission for some suggestions for potential uses of the buildings. There may be Department of Agriculture/NRCS money available for him.

A. Ennis will invite Mr. Carver to attend the August 28th meeting. They will discuss a site walk/tour.

- There was discussion regarding a Quiet Corner Garden Club Event which was held in Woodstock: Hugelkultur (a method of composting). The presenter was Sue from

Leaping Frog. Mr. Kerouac suggested that she be considered as a speaker if needed).

VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting – See New Business Above.

IX. Adjourn (Next meeting August 28, 2018).

Motion was made by C. Langevin to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Second by S. Karro. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary