

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday, September 28, 2021
7:00 PM
Clifford B. Green Building

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- I. **Call to Order** - Anne Ennis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call (5 Regular and 3 Alternates)** – Anne Ennis, Chair; Charles Langevin, Vice-Chair; Lou Brodeur; Sandra Brodeur, Stanley Karro (all were present in person).

Also Present: Rick Ives, First Selectman (hosted the meeting); Sara Mooney, Little Dipper Farm (arrived at 7:15 p.m.); Austin Tanner – in the audience (all three were present in person).

Jana Roberson; Amy Clark; Todd; and J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary (all four present via Webex).

- III. **Seat alternate if necessary** – None.
- IV. **Review minutes:**
- A. March 23, 2021 (The regularly scheduled meetings for the months of April 2021 thru August 2021, were cancelled.)

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2021, as presented. Second by S. Brodeur. No discussion.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

- V. **Public Participation** – None.

VI. **Old Business**

A. Contact Plainfield Ag Commission about “wine” trail.

S. Brodeur explained that she contacted the Plainfield Ag Commission again, but has not heard back from them.

There was discussion. Ms. Brodeur explained that the Chair of the Plainfield Ag Commission is trying to set up a farm trail that is like a wine trail and she is looking for help from other Ag Commissions. It would be good to let people know where the farm stands are.

B. Contact Conservation Commission about open spaces.

S. Brodeur explained that she contacted Jana Roberson regarding open spaces because Diane Wimmer of the Conservation Commission had suggested that she check the Town

website, but information there is dated 1993. Ms. Roberson will be able to provide more recent information.

VII. New Business:

A. Presentation by Sara Mooney about the Little Dipper Farm. Ms. Mooney is one of four people from Boston who have purchased the Golden Lamb. She will tell us what they have planned for the future for the now Little Dipper Farm. It sounds fabulous!

Mr. Ives commented that the property (house, restaurant and all of the land) was purchased on September 17, 2021. He explained that they will sell memberships. There will be a restaurant component. Because the land is protected, they have to find out from the State what they can and can't do.

Sara Mooney gave a PowerPoint slide presentation entitled, "Where Sustainable Agriculture Meets Outdoor Adventure," and gave an overview of activities they plan to provide:

- Agriculture including the following: planting; growing elderberries on a commercial scale; composting; animals.
- Weekends involving themes such as crafting, artisans.
- Family adventures including the following: glamping; night-sky viewing; mountain bike trails through 350 acres of woods.

There was discussion. Ms. Brodeur asked how the Brooklyn Ag Commission can help. Ms. Mooney explained that they can be followed on Face Book and Instagram. Regarding staffing, they plan to work with the Killingly High Ag Department. Mr. Brodeur offered to take her on a tour. Ms. Brodeur suggested Ellis Tech also.

There was discussion regarding CSA members and that there will also be activities that the public can participate in.

There are currently two commercial kitchens, but they will go down to one and they will operate with only that one. Ms. Roberson provided information about the cooperative kitchen that is available for use in Willimantic (Commercially Licensed Cooperative Kitchen). Ms. Roberson said that the people there would be interested in this. Ms. Mooney will reach out to them.

Discussion continued. Ms. Brodeur commented that the former owners would be happy with the plans for the property. She feels that this will bring tourism to Town as the Golden Lamb did.

Ms. Mooney explained that they are working on a Management Plan for the acreage.

B. Any other new business to come before this meeting.

There was discussion regarding getting video footage of Brooklyn Farms via drone. This could be put on the website to show the types of agriculture in Town. Ms. Ennis will check with the videographer to see if he can attend the next meeting and provide a price. There was agreement that this is a good idea.

VIII. Public Participation – None.

IX. Action Items for Next Meeting – None.

X. Adjourn (Next meeting October 26, 2021).

Motion was made by S. Karro to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Second by L. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary

***PLEASE NOTE: Meetings to continue to be held via WebEx until they are able to be held in person at the Town Hall.**