

**Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Regular Meeting - Hybrid
Tuesday, November 23, 2021
7:00 PM
Clifford B. Green Meeting Center
Suite 24, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn, CT**

To join this meeting via the web or phone, follow the below instructions:

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MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order** Anne Ennis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call (5 Regular and 3 Alternates)** – Anne Ennis, Chair; Lou Brodeur; Sandra Brodeur, (present in person).
Charles Langevin and Stanley Karro were absent with notice.

Also Present: Margaret Washburn, Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer; Sharon Hawes; and Lachelle Rosinski (present in person).
J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary (via Webex/Telephone).

- III. **Seat alternate if necessary** – None.

- IV. **Review minutes:**
 - A. **Regular Meeting of October 26, 2021**

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2021, as presented. Second by S. Brodeur. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (3-0-0).

- V. **Public Participation** – None.

- VI. **Old Business**
 - A. **Contact Plainfield Ag Commission about “wine” trail.**
Dropped.

S. Brodeur has not been able to contact the Chair of the Plainfield Ag Commission.

- B. **Contact Jana Roberson to request a larger map of open spaces.**

S. Brodeur reported that Ms. Roberson has a larger Open Space Map available.

C. Kory LeBlanc will prepare price lists for using his drone to make videos of local farms and possibly other locations in Town.

A. Ennis reported that Mr. LeBlanc will have a better idea for pricing after he knows what is wanted to be included. Ms. Ennis expects to find out more information after the Holidays.

VII. New Business:

A. Margaret Washburn, Brooklyn's Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer, will speak to us about the steps necessary to apply for approval with the Inland Wetlands Commission to put in new ponds on farmland and to dredge an existing pond.

Ms. Washburn provided copies of information (Section 4 of the Regulations) to the Commission Members. She spoke of her background/experience.

Ms. Washburn explained that the best way to save money is to design the project so that it does not require a permit. She referred to the list of as-of-right uses for agriculture (which is extensive). She offered that she could help with this.

Ms. Washburn reviewed the application process:

- Meet with Ms. Washburn with what you want to do.
- Sketch/drawing of the wetlands.
- Ms. Washburn will do a site walk.
- Approve as an as-of-right use.
- You can also meet informally with the IWWC (which takes two months).
If there is a possibility of a significant impact to wetlands, they can require a public hearing (which would have fees associated with it).
Ms. Washburn suggested drawing the sketch in such that it shows reduced impact to wetlands. You could meet with Ms. Washburn and she could suggest revisions. It could go from having significant impact to not having any impact at all. Ms. Washburn stated that the IWWC is agriculturally friendly.
- Once your sketch is ready, you could be put on the IWWC's agenda.
- After approval, it gets posted with the Town Clerk within 48 hours. She explained that some towns put it in the newspaper for transparency.
- If there is a stream flowing through the pond, it may need permitting beyond the Town level.
- The IWWC decides if the dredging is as-of-right.
- The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides grants for farmers and can help with state and federal permitting fees.
- If a pond is greater than 100 acres, it would require a DEEP water diversion permit. The NRCS can determine whether state or federal permitting would be required.

There was discussion:

Mr. Brodeur asked, "what if a pond is over three acres?"

Ms. Washburn stated that it would require a permit, it is no longer exempt. Permit fees would be \$310. If they rule that it is an as-of-right use, they can handle it that way.

S. Brodeur asked a question by C. Langevin: He asked if the pond has to be on a working farm. Ms. Washburn stated that if no farming activity is going on, it would be hard to make the case that it is needed.

There was discussion regarding fire ponds which are exempt if under three acres. There was a question regarding whether the Town would cover liability for accidents. Ms. Washburn did not know the answer. Discussion continued.

Ms. Washburn will e-mail information to S. Brodeur to document the process.

B. Any other new business to come before this meeting. – None.

C. Review/approve 2022 Schedule of Regular Meetings.

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to approve the 2022 Schedule of Regular Meetings. Meetings to continue to be held at the Clifford B. Green Meeting Center and will be hybrid meetings through March 2022.

Second by S. Brodeur.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (3-0-0).

VIII. Public Participation

There was discussion with Sharon Hawes regarding the number of animals/livestock you can have on a three-acre farm.

IX. Action Items for Next Meeting.

To review the information regarding dredging ponds.
Get information for Kory LeBlanc so he can figure pricing.

X. Adjourn (Next meeting December 21, 2021).

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Second by S. Brodeur. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (3-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary