

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday October 24, 2023
7:00 PM
Town Hall Conference Room
There will be no Zoom log-in available for this meeting.

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order** – Lou Brodeur, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Roll Call (5 Regular and 3 Alternates)** – Lou Brodeur, Chair; Charles Langevin, Vice Chair; Sandra Brodeur and Stanley Karro.
Ann Ennis was absent with notice.
Lachelle Rosinski was absent.

Also Present via telephone: J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary.

Members of the Public Present in person: Matthew Chase, Sr. and Matthew Chase, Jr.

- III. Seat Alternate if necessary** – None.
- IV. Review Minutes from the September 26, 2023 Meeting.**

Motion was made by S. Karro to accept the Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023, as presented.
Second by C. Langevin. No discussion.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (4-0-0)

V. Public Participation

Matthew Chase, Sr. spoke of how he has an interest in dairy farms and they came to see what the Ag Commission was about. In the past, he had a farm in the Providence/Fall River area.

Matthew Chase, Jr. is a student at Woodstock Academy. There was discussion about the Ag program at Killingly High School.

VI. Old Business:

- A. Continue discussion on having Cory film tree harvesting for Christmas tree sales at Allen Hill Tree Farm. Ann to invite Cory to tonight's meeting. We also discussed possible filming in the spring of the following:

Cory LeBlanc was not present.

C. Langevin explained about how the Ag Commission is having videos made of farms in Town to help promote agriculture.

- a. Farmers market at Job Lot – No discussion.
- b. Little Dipper Farm
There was discussion regarding the possible sale of part of the Little Dipper Farm property to the Windham Land Trust.

- c. Daigle Farm – No discussion.
- d. Preserved Land – No discussion.

- B. Stan Karro talked of organizing an event in the spring, possibly joint with other area Ag Commissions and possibly including the Ag program at KHS. What's the committee's interest in this idea? Should we set up a committee? Should we contact other Ag Committees?

L. Brodeur explained that he had attended a meeting and they are interested. He will contact Courtney when the Ag Commission has things organized.

There was discussion regarding other Ag Commissions in the area. S. Brodeur will contact the NRCS. C. Langevin commented that he would rather just have ad-hoc meetings rather than for the Brooklyn Ag Commission to dissolve.

There was discussion about educational programs and community gardens, but it usually ends up that the Ag Commissions do all or most of the work, so they haven't been working out well.

There was discussion about the Ag program at Killingly High School.

S. Karro commented about programs with EASTCONN.

- C. Any other old business?

There was discussion about having still photos in addition to the video and also to include other farms. Mr. LaBlanc can take stills from the video.

There was discussion regarding vegetable stands being done after Labor Day when school goes back in session. Tomorrow is the last day for the Farmers Market this season.

There was discussion about the amount of rain this year, aggressive vines/weeds/nettles.

VII. New Business

- a. Any new topics for ways to promote agriculture in Brooklyn that members want to discuss?

Mr. Langevin commented that he feels that we are on the right track with Cory and he feels that the still will provide a more personal view of Brooklyn.

There was discussion regarding getting a better location at the Fair next year and about displaying information on the preserved lands and having Corey include this in the video with an explanation of what preserved land is.

There was discussion how farmland is decreasing. There was discussion about programs through NRCS/CT Department of Agriculture to help people get back into farming.

There was discussion regarding baling hay of different types.

b. Review/approval of 2024 Schedule of Regular Meetings.

There was discussion regarding the proposed meeting dates and whether monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly meetings should be scheduled. Ad-hoc meetings were also suggested. It was decided to table this discussion until next month so more Members could be present.

Motion was made by C. Langevin to not schedule a meeting in December 2024.

Second by S. Karro. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (4-0-0)

c. Any other new business to come before this meeting?

There was discussion regarding someone on the Canterbury Ag Commission who used to do regional meetings.

VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting – No discussion.

IX. Public Participation – None.

X. Adjourn (Next Meeting November 28, 2023).

Motion was made by C. Langevin to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

Second by S. Brodeur. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (4-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary