

2014-05-27 Agriculture Commission Minutes

Brooklyn Agriculture Commission
Tuesday, May 27, 2014
Brooklyn Town Hall

Present: Lou Brodeur, Sandra Brodeur, Stanley Karro, Charles Langevin, Joyce Meader

Guests: Sally Timmons, Sherri Soucy

S. Brodeur ***motioned*** to approve the April 22, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. S. Karro ***seconded***. ***All in favor; motion carried.***

C. Langevin read aloud the March 25, 2014 meeting minutes. S. Karro ***motioned*** to approve the March 25, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. J. Meader ***seconded***. ***All in favor; motion carried.***

Public Participation:

S. Timmons stated that the week of June 16 is National Pollinator Week. She has copies of the 2014 NAPPC poster for placement in the schools. This year's poster theme is native orchids and their pollinators. J. Meader inquired whether volunteers are needed to read about pollination in the classroom. S. Brodeur noted that that program is being run by the Farm Bureau. The Town of Pomfret has indicated that they would like to have a volunteer reader.

S. Timmons reported that she has been advised by the National Office of Ethics that it is permissible for her to participate in Agriculture Commission meetings, with the proviso that she recuse herself from voting.

Old Business:

Northeast Connecticut Farmers Market Association (NCFMA): L. Brodeur stated that Frank Anastasio of NCFMA has apprised him that payment due is \$185. L. Brodeur has spoken with S. Soucy regarding processing the payment. S. Karro reported that the parking lot signage will be ready this week. It will be an A-frame style sign that will be set up in the middle of the parking area and will read as follows: *Reserved for Farmer's Market 3:30-6:00 Wednesday*. J. Meader noted that she has an orange and white barrel that could be used for signage if an additional deterrent proves necessary.

Table cover with logo purchase: S. Timmons noted that table covers are available for both 6 ft. and 8 ft. long tables. The commission members agreed that an

8 ft. long table cover would be more useful. The commission discussed whether it should commission a print quality logo. S. Timmons reported that, based on her initial research, a table cover with a designed logo would cost \$160-\$200 whereas prices for a table cover without a designed logo range from \$130-\$170. Both quotes include the cost of shipping. The commission discussed whether to use the town logo or create something new. C. Langevin stated that the Israel Putnam logo is well known. He noted that a local business that has performed printing for the Town of Brooklyn may already have the town logo in print quality digital form. The commission should also determine whether the Town has the logo. The commission discussed possible color schemes for the table cover. S. Karro suggested hunter green with white lettering.

Walktober: The Commission will not sponsor a Walktober event. While several possibilities were explored, such as Bill Carver, Quackin' Grass, and the Golden Lamb, none of them panned out.

Continue talk on concept of "History of Agriculture in Brooklyn": S. Karro contacted the Brooklyn Historical Society. While they provided some information, the roundtable would be a good way to elicit more. S. Karro noted that the Finnish American Heritage Society may have some information on poultry farming. The commission discussed possible formats for the roundtable. All agreed that the project will be long-term and on-going, possibly for several years. It may be necessary to hold multiple roundtables. C. Langevin noted that the roundtables themselves may generate leads that yield additional information. S. Brodeur suggested that it may be productive to involve the Brooklyn Historical Society as the project evolves. C. Langevin noted that the involvement of a local reporter could help promote the project. J. Meader remarked that the use of agriculture-related photos could stimulate interest in the project. L. Brodeur suggested the formation of a subcommittee to work on the project. L. Brodeur, S. Karro, and J. Meader volunteered to be on the subcommittee. S. Timmons will research release forms, which may be needed in the event the commission wishes to publish tapes or photos collected during the course of the project. S. Brodeur suggested placing an ad in the Turnpike Buyer asking whether anyone has old photos that the commission could borrow. J. Meader noted that she has some photos from the Barn Trust project. The possibility of hosting an Agriculture Commission potluck dinner was discussed. C. Langevin indicated that the event could take place at his home. The commission agreed that 1) a smaller group of three or four for the roundtable is most likely to yield good results; and 2) although some participants may be less comfortable being taped, the use of a recorder is pivotal to accurately capturing as much information as possible. C. Langevin suggested the commission develop a series of stimulus questions that can be used to get the roundtables underway. He also suggested that Don Francis and Jeff participate in the initial subcommittee meeting. S. Karro will contact them.

New Business:

J. Meader noted that UConn Extension Educator Tom Worthley would like an opportunity to speak about the emerald ash borer (EAB). The Canterbury Agriculture Commission is holding a forestry meeting, but is only able to give Worthley 10 minutes of speaking time. It may make sense to hold a separate event, focused on the EAB, to which all regional agriculture commissions could be invited. J. Meader suggested a two hour program could be held at the Extension Center. She is waiting to hear back from Worthley regarding details and suggested topics. She will check with Dawn Pindell of the Canterbury Agriculture Commission to ensure that there is no topic overlap between the events.

Actions Items for Next Meeting: History of Agriculture subcommittee update.

Sherri Soucy joined the meeting. She is not aware that the Town has a print quality digital version of the logo; however, she will check with Melissa Bradley.

S. Karro ***motioned*** to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. C. Langevin ***seconded***. ***All in favor; motion carried.***

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Sincerely,

Shelley Hopkins
Recording Secretary