

# **2014-04-22 Agriculture Commission Minutes**

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Brooklyn Agriculture Commission  
Tuesday, April 22, 2014  
Brooklyn Town Hall

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

Guests: Sally Timmons, Don Francis

The review of the March 25, 2014 minutes was tabled.

Public Participation:

S. Timmons reviewed the April 5, 2014 AGvocate Workshop. While attendance was sparse, many different commissions were represented. The topics discussed included food hubs, marketing, and explaining the value of local agriculture commissions. Bozrah has organized a roundtable of the history of agriculture. The Commission discussed the feasibility of doing a similar project. C. Langevin remarked that Brooklyn's history is primarily oral and will be lost if not recorded in some fashion. S. Brodeur suggested that the roundtable could be taped and transcribed. L. Brodeur noted that a booklet could be printed. The Commission discussed two distinct approaches: 1) cataloguing; and 2) story telling. S. Karro noted that this would be a longer term project and raised the issue of how best to involve the Historical Society.

S. Timmons noted that the Canterbury Agricultural Commission participates in Canterbury's 4th of July parade and suggested the Commission consider participating in Brooklyn's Memorial Day parade.

L. Brodeur announced that Sandy Brodeur has been appointed to the Commission as a full member. Sherri Vogt has become an alternate member. Both appointments run until January 14, 2016.

Old Business:

Northeast CT Farmers Market Association (NCFMA) and SNAP/EBT: The Commission has received correspondence, dated April 22, 2014, in which NCFMA explains that it will no longer be able to offer SNAP/EBT at the Putnam, Brooklyn, or Plainfield locations due to the new Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) federal rule which stipulates that each location have its own FNS account. NCFMA cannot justify this expense. NCFMA will continue to work to see this rule changed or an exemption created. In the meantime, should individual market towns wish to pay the fees associated with the SNAP program, NCFMA will continue to accept SNAP at those locations. S. Karro ***motioned*** to appropriate 5 months' worth of SNAP fees at \$37 per month so that NCFMA can continue to accept SNAP in Brooklyn. C. Langevin ***seconded. All in favor; motion carried.***

Signage: S. Karro ***motioned*** to authorize a member of the Commission to investigate signage for the Ocean State Job Lot market vendor parking area at a cost of up to \$150. S. Brodeur ***seconded***. S. Brodeur inquired as to how restriction of the parking area to vendors can be enforced. C. Langevin commented that it will likely be more akin to an educational process. ***All in favor; motion carried.***

Tri-fold display board and table cover with logo: The Commission agreed that it is not necessary to purchase a display board at this time. The one that has been borrowed is sufficient. S. Timmons and J. Meader will investigate options for a table cover costing approximately \$100 and present their findings to the Commission.

Walktober: It is not clear whether J. Meade has spoken with either Bill Carver or Wayne Paquette of Quackin' Grass. The deadline to submit an application to sponsor an event is two days away. S. Karro will contact The Last Green Valley to see whether J. Meade submitted anything. If not, he will contact Wayne. The Commission agreed that if Wayne is not interested, the Commission will forego sponsoring an event this year.

Hosting a regional agriculture commission: S. Timmons will follow up on this.  
New Business: None

D. Francis joined the meeting. The Commission further discussed the concept of a history of agriculture roundtable. He agreed to give the project some thought and get back to the Commission with his ideas.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Adjourned: 8:05 PM

Sincerely,

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Shelley Hopkins

Recording Secretary