

Brooklyn Agriculture Commission
Tuesday, August 26, 2014
Brooklyn Town Hall

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Present: Lou Brodeur, Sandra Brodeur, Stanley Karro, Joyce Meader, and Charles Langevin
Guest: Sally Timmons, Aaron Kerouack, and Mike Blackmer of WINY

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Lona A. Mainville

TOWN CLERK BROOKLYN, CT

S. Karro **motioned** to approve the June 24, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. S. Brodeur **seconded**.
All in favor; motion carried.

Public Participation: A. Kerouack of the Brooklyn Historical Society and Brooklyn Planning & Zoning Commission introduced himself. He is exploring ways in which various boards and commissions might work together. He is interested in putting together a project that celebrates Brooklyn's agricultural history using local artists. S. Brodeur noted that the Agricultural Commission has begun work on a history of agriculture in Brooklyn. S. Karro invited A. Kerouack to join the subcommittee working on this project. J. Meader requested that A. Kerouack put his proposal in writing.

Old Business:

Brooklyn Farmers Market signage for parking lot: S. Karro stated that while Frank Anastasio has not said much about the signage, he feels that it is working fine. He noted, however, that the barrel has disappeared. He inquired whether the commission should go beyond promoting the Farmer's Market and promote other producers who do not participate in the Farmer's Market. S. Brodeur noted that the Brooklyn Business Association is putting together a map of local businesses, including farms. S. Timmons stated that if the commission wishes to update its brochure, AGvocate will provide the original file for the commission's use. She will determine how many of the original flyers are still left. S. Brodeur suggested putting a list of agricultural businesses on the town website. J. Meader suggested that a different business could be highlighted in each edition of the town newsletter. S. Timmons suggested that businesses could be highlighted at a time that coincides with their products coming to market, e.g., blueberries in the summer.

Table cover with logo purchase: J. Meader **motioned** to spend up to \$200 to purchase a table cover with the words "Brooklyn Agricultural Commission" online. S. Karro **seconded**. **All in favor; motion carried.** The commission decided on a royal blue cover with white lettering.

Committee report for History of Agriculture in Brooklyn: S. Karro reported that the suggestion that John Ennis be involved was made. He spoke briefly with Rudy Rzeznikiewicz.

Back-To-School Barbecue: S. Timmons reported that S. Brodeur and J. Meader will assist her with this event. The project will be to make a banner on white paper that the kids can decorate with pictures of things they like about farms. J. Meader will provide the roll of paper and coloring books to give the kids ideas. S. Timmons will bring crayons and markers. S. Timmons suggested they arrive one half hour prior to the start of the event to set up.

New Business:

Workshop on irrigation systems for high tunnels and outdoor gardens: S. Brodeur reported that she and L. Brodeur attended a workshop on irrigation systems for high tunnels and outdoor gardens. The event was held at the Community Farm of Simsbury and the workshop was given by a representative of Brookdale Fruit Farm, located in New Hampshire. Brookdale Fruit Farm will design a

solution for one's specific needs free of charge. The representative suggested applying to NRCS for grant money to implement solutions.

Mission Statement:

The Selectmen's office has requested that the commission provide a mission statement for the new town web site. C. Langevin suggested looking at what other towns and commissions have done. J. Meader will e-mail a draft mission statement to the commission for their review and comment. S. Brodeur will check to make sure it can be added to the website after it is up and running.

Upcoming events:

S. Timmons stated that the Great Tomato Festival will be held in Killingly on September 13 and Celebrating Agriculture will be held in Woodstock on September 20.

The commission discussed whether it should have a Facebook page or Twitter account. The pros and cons of each were discussed. S. Brodeur noted that a Facebook page or Twitter account involves a commitment to maintenance. S. Timmons volunteered to maintain whatever social media platform the commission decides to use. No decision was made on whether to go forward with a Facebook page or Twitter account.

C. Langevin ***motioned*** to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm. S. Karro ***seconded***. ***All in favor; motion carried.***

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Sincerely,

Shelley Hopkins
Recording Secretary