

Brooklyn Agriculture Commission  
Tuesday, January 25, 2012  
7 pm  
Brooklyn Town Office

Present: Stan Karro, Chairman, Charles Langevin, Cherie Poirier, Joyce Meader, Lou Brodeur, Sherri Vogt  
Guests: Bev Thorton, Brooklyn Conservation Commission

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Minutes: Accepted for November 22, 2011 (CL,CP)

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**New Business:**

a. WalkOctober: J. Meader suggested that the commission ask Ennis/ Eggers' Kingswood Dairy Farm to sponsor a walk next October on a Saturday or Sunday, for the public to view their farm. Meader will speak with John or Fred.

b. Killingly Vo-Ag: Commission needs to invite a HS student from the Vo-Ag Center to attend a meeting. What is the interest in summer employment on a local farm?

c. Community Farmland Preservation: CT Dept of AG has invited towns to apply for this program of cost-sharing on the purchase of development rights of farmland by May 31, 2012. The towns must demonstrate:

- Farmland preservation in the town POCD,
- Established ag commission
- Inventory of farmland resources
- Prioritize farms for preservation using a scoring system
- Fund for farmland preservation and method of funding
- ID locally important farmland soils through the USDA's NRCS.

Brooklyn needs to prioritize farms for preservation. S. Vogt will ask J. Kauffman for example scoring sheets used by other towns. J. Meader will ask the First Selectman to write to the state office of the NRCS with the request to designate Brooklyn's locally important farmland soils. J. Meader will get an application for the state program for the selectman to sign, once these last two requirements are met.

S. Vogt suggested that the commission write to the Brooklyn Finance Committee about increasing the Open Space Funding from \$1/ person to \$2/ person.

S. Vogt shared the interest of Joel Rosenberg to sell the development rights to some hayland used by Mr. Peck.

d. The CT Poultry Association is placing a bid on a Mobile Processing Unit for Poultry, being sold by the state of Vermont.

e. Farmers Market promotion: If the goal to increase sales at the Brooklyn Farmers Market can include the community receiving SNAP federal food assistance, then we could look into the use of ECB machines to process these coupons. If electricity and the internet is necessary, maybe the local business, Browning and Browning could be of assistance? Wholesome Wave offers a Double Value Coupon Program (Putnam Farmers Market), where the participants receive an incentive that matches the amount spent in federal coupons. The DVCP relies on grants and private donations. Another program distributes market boxes from a central location weekly, allowing customers to pay with SNAP dollars using a mobile EBT terminal.

It was suggested that the commission look into the possibility of holding a GLEANING event at WalkOctober, to have the walkers harvest surplus fruits or vegetables for donation to soup kitchens. The regulations regarding donations needs to be investigated.

f. Centurion Poultry, Inc.: S. Karro looked on the internet to learn about the Stetson Rd operation, which specializes in production of different strains of chickens, such as Pureline Genetics Division.

g. March 24<sup>th</sup> conference: First AGvocate "Growing Farms in Your Community" gathering will be held at Eastconn , Rte 6, Hampton, CT from 9 AM- 3:30 PM.

Included is a Cornell talk, " Assessing the Market Channel Best Suited for Your Farm Profitability"

Call to register 860-450-6007 [AGvocate@yahoo.com](mailto:AGvocate@yahoo.com) or [www.AginfoTLGV.org/AGvocate](http://www.AginfoTLGV.org/AGvocate)

#### ELECTIONS:

The commission thanked S. Karro for his excellent leadership.

New officers elected:

Cherie Poirier, Chairman

Lou Brodeur, Vice Chairman

Joyce Meader, Secretary

Adjourned 8:30 PM

Sincerely,

Joyce E. Meader, Secretary