

Brooklyn Agriculture Commission  
Tuesday, April 24, 2012  
7 pm  
Brooklyn Town Office

Present: Chair Cherie Poirier, Joyce Meader, Stan Karro, Charles Langevin  
Guest: Ellen Lehtimaki

Minutes: March minutes approved (CL, SK)

**Old Business:**

- a. Walktober: J. Meader and C. Poirier will co-lead a walk between Brooklyn Restoration and Kingswood Farm, describing the hay and corn field production and harvest as well as visit the silage and haylage piles fed to the Kingswood dairy herd.
- b. Community Farmland Preservation Program:  
C. Poirier will revise the drafted Brooklyn Farmland Assessment Tool. J. Meader will get the Conservation Commission's prime and statewide important soil overlay to submit with the Assessment Tool as part of the Community Farmland Preservation Program pre-qualification application to the CT Dept of AG. These two tools will to be used to prioritize farmland offered by Brooklyn landowners for the purchase of development rights.
- c. The Board of Selectmen approved the lease of the town's open space at the Preserve development on South St. to farmer, Jim Hunter. Jim plans to clear the land of autumn olive bushes, till in manure for nutrients and organic matter, and plant a forage crop for his beef herd. J. Meader expressed concern about his plan to spread poultry manure at this time of the year. She suggested that the lease could restrict use of poultry manure to the seasons when the air temperature is less than 50 degrees, to avoid fly nuisance to the non-farm development close by. It would also prevent odor complaints if the neighbors still had closed windows. J. Meader will speak with the selectmen about this suggestion. Livestock manure would be less apt to be harboring developing flies.

**New Business:**

- a. A Facebook page started by C. Poirier could reach out to farmers letting them know what the town ag commissions are doing. And let the public know where to buy local. The page could provide advertising of agricultural events. J. Meader suggested that Cherie contact The Last Green Valley and the AgVocate program about the idea. Joyce invited her to attend the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:00PM AgVocate meeting in Danielson.
- b. Famers Market location in Brooklyn: Is it the location, the Wednesday time, or the newness that is responsible for the low attendance? Would a better environment than the parking lot attract more customers? What about the empty lot owned by Steve Townsend behind CVS? C. Poirier will speak with Steve Townsend about letting the Farmers Market Association use the undeveloped lot, if they found it appealing.

Adjourned 8:30 PM

Sincerely,

Joyce E. Meader, Secretary

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