

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission

Tuesday February 3, 2015

7.00 PM

Town Hall

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

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

Public Participation: None

Old Business:

Brooklyn Farmers Brochure: J. Meader stated that the Town will pay a reduced price for the printing of new brochures if multiple towns participate in the printing. The other towns are not ready to go forward yet and J. Meader is still working on updating the Town's brochure. L. Brodeur suggested broaching the subject at the Regional Agriculture Commission Meeting on February 11. J. Meader noted that the minimum print order is 1,000 brochures.

USDA food safety program: This item was tabled due to S. Brodeur's absence.

Committee report for "History of Agriculture in Brooklyn:" S. Karro reported that the committee had its first meeting. The attendees were Charles Ennis, Rudy Rzeznikiewicz, and Roy Tapio. The committee discussed dairy and vegetable farms. C. Langevin asked whether S. Karro recorded the meeting. S. Karro replied that he recorded the meeting and took notes as well. The committee will try to schedule another meeting before the end of February. Still to be discussed are poultry, cattle, and tree farming. J. Meader noted that she has pictures of Brooklyn barns if these would be of any use to the committee.

Regional Agriculture Commission Meeting Wednesday 2/11/15 at KHS: S. Karro will contact Ken Couture to see whether he would like any financial assistance with the refreshments. C. Langevin inquired as to how many towns will be attending. J. Meader explained that all towns in the state were invited via e-blast. It is her understanding that Killingly may not be able to attend due to a scheduling conflict. J. Meader reviewed the meeting agenda. L. Brodeur will present the opening comments. J. Meader will be speaking on the subject of effective communication by multi-generation farm teams. Joan Nichols of the Connecticut Farm Bureau will be reviewing the Farm Bureau Tool Kit, which may be useful to commissions that want to schedule educational meetings. J. Meader suggested that the commission prepare a list of topics with which Ms. Nichols might assist the commission. J. Meader requested that L. Brodeur encourage attending students to join their local agriculture commissions. L. Brodeur requested that S. Karro confirm with Ken Couture regarding how the tour for the KHS Science Department will be organized. L. Brodeur will provide closing comments and field any questions.

Mission statement: S. Karro *motioned* to approve the mission statement as presented. C. Langevin *seconded. All in favor; motion carried.*

Topics and speakers for 2015 programs: This item was tabled for future discussion.

New Business:

Approve 2015-16 budget to present to Board of Selectmen: L. Brodeur reviewed the proposed budget of \$2,400. He would like the commission to continue supporting the SNAP program for the Farmers Market. He has added in a line item for printing and publications to cover the brochures. C. Langevin noted that funds may also be required for the "History of Agriculture in Brooklyn" project. L. Brodeur noted that the professional affiliations and training line items have been reduced to better reflect historical expenditure levels. The recording secretary and supplies line items are unchanged versus 2014-15. C. Langevin *motioned* to approve the 2015-2016 budget as presented. S. Karro *seconded. All in favor, motion carried.*

Discussion on Commission Officers for 2015: No decisions were reached.

S. Karro noted that he has purchased a digital recorder for use on the "History of Agriculture in Brooklyn" project. C. Langevin *motioned* to reimburse S. Karro for this purchase. J. Meader *seconded. All in favor; motion carried. S. Karro abstained.*

J. Meader requested that commission members let her know of any new farms for the purposes of updating the Brooklyn Farmers brochure.

S. Karro *motioned* to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm. J. Meader *seconded. All in favor; motion carried.*

Next meeting February 24, 2015

Sincerely,

Shelley Hopkins, Recording Secretary