

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday October 24, 2017
7:00 PM
Town Hall

MINUTES

I. Call to Order – Chairperson, Lou Brodeur called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call (5 Regular and 3 Alternates)

Lou Brodeur, Chairperson; Charles Langevin, Vice Chairperson; Anne Ennis; Stanley Karro; Joyce Meader arrived at 7:06 p.m. Sandra Brodeur was absent with notice.

Also Present: Josh King

III. Seat alternates if necessary.

J. Meader was seated as a Voting Member after she arrived.

IV. Review minutes from September 26, 2017 Meeting.

Motion was made by C. Langevin to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 26, 2017, as presented. Second by A. Ennis. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

V. Public Participation – None.

VI. Old Business:

A. Committee report for: “History of Agriculture in Brooklyn.”

S. Karro will have a report for next month’s meeting.

B. New sign is complete and installed on Gorman Road. Thanks to Charlie Langevin for assisting and supplying 2 bags of mortar mix for the project and his post-hole digger.

L. Brodeur reported that he and C. Langevin installed the sign. Mr. Brodeur will speak with Sandy Eggers about putting a sign on Route 169 along the road on the Fairgrounds property. He mentioned that another good place to put a sign would be by the Grange Hall/Brooklyn Farm & Pet, but it would need a permit from the State.

C. Walktober update by Anne and Joyce. Weather wasn’t the best, crowd small, and cheese was excellent. Thanks to Mortlake for traffic duty even though they weren’t needed.

Anne Ennis reported:

- Seven people attended: 5 adults; 2 children.
- They did the farm tour first: calves; cow barn/milk room; equipment shed; corn.
- Since the weather wasn’t good, they only walked to the corn field and back. No traffic control was needed.
- It lasted about 1.5 hours.
- It was enjoyed by those who attended.

Joyce Meader arrived at 7:06 p.m.

D. South Brooklyn Solar Project. Joyce to draft letter to developer explaining the Ag Commission’s concerns and the possibility of installing pollinators in the area of the panels. Joyce to draft letter and send to Lou Brodeur for editing before sending. Stan to contact Vermont community to get additional information.

J. Meader provided copies of the letter that she drafted. The Commission Members reviewed the letter. There was discussion regarding type of seed to recommend. There was discussion regarding "extensive site preparation" language in Ms. Meader's letter. She wants people to realize that it involves more than just spreading seed on the ground. There was discussion regarding whether it be recommended that tiling/seeding should take place before posts/panels are put in the ground and also if there will be enough room between panels for tiling/seeding/mowing equipment. The Commission did not make any changes to the letter. Mr. Brodeur will send it to the Connecticut Siting Council on letterhead with a copy going to the Solar Developer. Mr. Brodeur will include his contact information on the letter. Ms. Meader suggested that a form (Pollinator Habitat Planning and Assessment Form) from Vermont be included with the letter.

Mr. Karro reported that he has researched on the internet and had circulated some of that information, but he does not have any feedback from any specific towns at this time.

There will be a meeting in Canterbury coming up. S. Karro will try to find out about any upcoming meetings.

E. Nothing new on Killingly Advisory appointment.

L. Brodeur stated that there probably would not be any information until the December meeting.

F. Still waiting for Board of Selectmen to appoint Sandra Brodeur as full member.

L. Brodeur will send a letter.

VII. New Business:

A. Any new business to come before this meeting.

J. Meader commented about upcoming tours:

- Beef Pasture Tour this Saturday in Stonington/North Stonington.
- Robotic Milker Tour in Hartford County on November 2nd.

Ms. Meader commented about the CT Agribility Program (adapting equipment to help farmers with disabilities).

There was discussion regarding possibly publicizing the fact that there is an article (about Christmas trees) in Yankee Magazine (November/December 2017 issue) which includes a photo, as well as the cover photo, that were taken at C. Langevin's Tree Farm on Allen Hill Road. L. Brodeur will speak with Ms. Timmons.

VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting – No discussion.

IX. Adjourn (Next meeting November 28, 2017).

Motion was made by S. Karro to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Second by J. Meader. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary