

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday November 27, 2018
7:00 PM
Town Hall

MINUTES

I. **Call to Order** – Chairperson, Anne Ennis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. **Roll Call (5 Regular and 3 Alternates)**

Anne Ennis, Chairperson; Charles Langevin, Vice Chairperson; Sandra Brodeur; Stanley Karro. Joyce Meader arrived at 7:13 p.m. Lou Brodeur was absent with notice.

Also Present:

From the Killingly Community Garden: Carrie Carter; Heather Goodier; Wayland Leonard.

From Woodstock Academy: Peter Lusa, Environmental Science Teacher; Logan Burton, Woodstock Academy Student.

III. **Seat alternate if necessary** – No Alternate was seated.

IV. **Review minutes:**

A. August 28, 2018 Regular Meeting – Minutes unavailable for review.

B. October 23, 2018 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by S. Brodeur to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2018. Second by S. Karro. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

V. **Public Participation** – None.

VI. **Old Business:**

A. Committee report for: “History of Agriculture in Brooklyn.” – No Report.

B. South Brooklyn Solar project. – No discussion. Remove from agenda for future meetings.

C. Nothing new on Killingly Advisory appointment. – No new information.

D. Suggestions for zoning map changes? – No discussion. Remove from agenda for future meetings.

VII. **New Business:**

A. Any new business to come before this meeting. – None.

B. Review 2019 Meeting Schedule

Motion was made by S. Brodeur to accept the 2019 Regular Meeting Schedule as presented. Second by C. Langevin. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

C. Discussion with Representative from Killingly Community Garden
Discussion included the following topics:

- Other Local Community Gardens – Willimantic (30 years), Pomfret (15 years), Putnam (4 years).
- Support from the Town is very important.
- Location is important - Will people be able to walk to it?
- Water source.
- Grants (Elks, NDDH).

J. Meader arrived at 7:13 p.m.

Discussion continued with the following topics:

- Raised beds.
- Affordability/donations (suggested donation is \$20).
- Donating produce to food banks - 1/4 to 1/3 of the beds this year, but it depends on what is not being used).
- Pollinators.
- Advertising (flyers, community events, e-mail, fundraisers, in-garden potluck picnic). Ms. Carter offered to provide a list of places that accept flyers.
- They improve it each year.
- Wheelchair-accessible ramp.
- Making connections with business in the area (offer education classes – they did a canning class by partnering with the Grange).
- It is difficult to find many people to put in the time/work necessary and they have been operating mostly on a small core group of five.
- Resource for help getting started: People in the Master Garden Class may need to work volunteer hours.
- It is good to have a coordinator to send e-mails to remind people to weed/harvest their plots.
- Killingly has a free-for-all section.
- Fencing.
- Peak year consistent participation (this year) eight or nine people. Sometimes they get groups. There are participants from other towns.
- Mr. Leonard drew a map of the Killingly Community Garden (approx. 30' by 60' maybe 4,000 s.f. with eleven beds) and gave an overview. Killingly left space for Community gathering such as the potluck picnic. A disabled person has participated for five years and that person's bed is raised to three feet. All others are raised one-foot.
- Killingly provides plants and seeds (educational component).
- Bringing in compost/mulch/soil.
- Similarities/differences with Pomfret and Putnam Gardens. Pomfret – only volunteers are needed as all produce is donated to food banks. Putnam – every plot is owned or rented. Time spent managing the Garden vs. finding people to participate.
- Sun is important.
- Take a poll at the end of the season to learn what would be good/needed in the future.
- A survey was suggested to see if there is interest within the Community.
- The Killingly Community Garden has its own website.
- Resources: Connecticut Community Garden Association; Linda Colangelo of the NDDH. Ms. Brodeur will ask Ms. Colangelo what the Ag Commission can do.
- It was suggested that the Ag Commission research and visit /tour the other local Community Gardens and also to contact other Ad Commissions. Ms. Brodeur attends AgVocate meetings.

- Mr. Leonard provided a copy of the Killingly Community Garden Application and Rules for reference.
- They tried to institute Second Saturdays – Community work day.
- Pesticide use.

There was discussion regarding trying to combine Killingly and Brooklyn to operate together in East Brooklyn.

D. Last Green Valley – No discussion.

Ms. Meader provided copies of the Extension Newsletter.

There was discussion regarding the Connecticut Dairy Farm of the Year – Barrette Farm in Woodstock.

VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting – None.

IX. Adjourn (Next meeting December 18, 2018).

Motion was made by C. Langevin to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Second by J. Meader. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary