

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday March 26, 2019
7:00 PM
Town Hall

MINUTES

I. **Call to Order** – Chairperson, Anne Ennis called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Anne Ennis, Chairperson; Charles Langevin, Vice Chairperson; Stanley Karro; Sandra Brodeur.
Lou Brodeur was absent with notice. Joyce Meader was absent.

Also Present:

Kristine Erickson, 128 Spaulding Road
Doris Kennedy, 33 Fitzgerald Road
A.J. Kerouac

III. Seat alternate if necessary. – None.

IV. Review minutes:

A. February 26, 2019

Motion was made by C. Langevin to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 26, 2019, as presented. Second by S. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

V. Public Participation

- **Kristine Erickson** is new to Town and is possibly interested in becoming involved with the Ag Commission to get involved in the Community.
- **Doris Kennedy** is interested in finding out information regarding local farms that she could patronize.

The Commission Members introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of things that the Commission does or may become involved in.

- A.J. Kerouac noted that the meeting agendas need to be put on the Town's website calendar. The Recording Secretary will take care of it.

VI. Old Business

A. Walktober

Ms. Brodeur reported that Ms. Meader had contacted Bill Reed, but she was not sure if Ms. Meader had contacted the rest of the people. The Commission Members described the tentative plan for Walktober for Ms. Erickson and Ms. Kennedy. Discussion continued and it is felt that it is important to have a guide with extensive knowledge. Mr. Kerouac offered to contact someone that he knows who runs a museum. It was decided to check with Ms. Meader first.

VII. New Business:

A. Any new business to come before this meeting.

B. Discussion regarding possible participation with the Conservation Commission regarding Sustainable Connecticut.

S. Brodeur stated they are starting to move on it. She plans to attend their next meeting to see if there is a project that the Ag Commission can do to help contribute to the Town.

C. Brooklyn Fair Display

There was discussion regarding setting up the display earlier this year. Ms. Erickson and Ms. Kennedy were interested in possibly helping out. There was discussion regarding possibly showing videos of farming. There was discussion regarding possibly sharing the booth with Killingly High School students who may need to do community service (and to promote agricultural education) or with a local 4-H Club.

VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting

S. Kerro asked if the Commission should meet with Betsy Molovich of the Farmers' Market regarding promoting the Farmers' Market perhaps with entertainment. S. Brodeur suggested that Ms. Molovich could be invited to speak about the Farmers' Market and that Frank Anastasio could be invited to show a video about farming that he has shown at the Ekonk Grange. Mr. Kerro will contact Ms. Molovich. Discussion continued.

Mr. Kerouac spoke about his idea for an alternative to a Farmers' Market which he feels should be given a try to see how it would do since the current Farmers' Market is not thriving. He said that non-residents were more interested in his idea than Brooklyn residents. There was agreement that the Brooklyn Fairgrounds would be a better place than where the Farmers' Market is currently. Entertainment could be provided there and there was a suggestion that the Bisson farm would probably participate. There was discussion regarding food. Mr. Kerouac stated that the Fair people are receptive to this idea. He spoke of one location for the region which he feels may alleviate the problem with attendance by farmers. Mr. Kerouac will speak with Ms. Molovich before she comes to an Agricultural Commission meeting so that she will be prepared for discussion. Discussion continued.

Mr. Kerouac shared some of his ideas:

- Each table could have a question (e.g. manure maintenance).
- It could be a resource hub. Farmers' information could be there even if they are not present.
- Mr. Kerouac asked Carly Martin, Silver Circle Art Gallery, and registered nutritionist, to write a paragraph about each farmer showing what they produce. He also spoke with her about providing her services.
- Book table.
- Ms. Brodeur commented that Brooklyn could make their own video and show it.

There were various side discussions regarding different kinds of farming.

IX. Adjourn (Next meeting April 23, 2019).

Motion was made by S. Brodeur to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Second by C. Langevin. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary