

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Tuesday June 25, 2019
7:00 PM
Town Hall

MINUTES

I. Call to Order – Chairperson, Anne Ennis called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

II. Roll Call (5 Regular and 3 Alternates)

Anne Ennis, Chairperson; Stanley Karro; Sandra Brodeur; Lou Brodeur. J. Meader was absent with notice. Charles Langevin, Vice Chairperson, arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Also Present: Diane Wimmer, Brooklyn Conservation Commission
Alexis Meehan, NECCOG
Normandy Avery, NECCOG

III. Seat alternate if necessary – None.

IV. Review minutes:

A. May 28, 2019

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 28, 2019, as presented. Second by S. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0). C. Langevin was not present for this Motion.

Motion was made by S. Karro to re-order the Agenda to move Item VII.A. to after Item IV.A. Second by S. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0). C. Langevin was not present for this Motion.

Item VII.A. Discussion regarding possible participation with the Conservation Commission regarding Sustainable Connecticut.

S. Brodeur explained that she had attended the Conservation Commission special meeting regarding Sustainable Connecticut and that they had agreed to work together with the Agricultural Commission on the presentation for the Fair. Ms. Ennis spoke with Ryan (President) who said that the Agricultural Commission's area will not be moving and she will set a date with him for when the display can be set up.

Diane Wimmer gave an explanation about Sustainable Connecticut which is more than just solar/wind power/open spaces, it is also about all of the things/events that make a town a nice place to live. She said that they would, basically, be gathering information (such as pamphlets) to provide to the public. She and the Conservation Commission will be working with other Commissions also. Ms. Wimmer turned the discussion over to Alexis Meehan and Normandy Avery who explained the Sustainable CT outline (which helps you choose what kinds of things you want in your town and also gives guidelines on how to accomplish those things). There are different resources (including grants) that are available. They explained actions/sub-actions which are required for either bronze (200 points) or silver (400 points) certification. Action 9.1 (Equity Tool Kit) is a required action and the Equity Coaches are available to help with it. Certification provides recognition that the town is a sustainable community which makes a town more attractive to younger families and the

town would be recognized at the CCM Dinner in October. Certification is good for three years. They explained that Sustainable CT is financed through grants and donations. This is the second year for certification. There is one grant available (through Sustainable CT) to registered towns that have been approved (information to be sent out in about a month). They will also help with other grants that are not run through Sustainable CT.

Ms. Wimmer explained that they are looking for things that won't be an expense to the Town. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Brodeur asked what is needed to be done. They would need a partnership letter explaining that the groups are working together and access to minutes. They would communicate via e-mail regarding documentation needed. Sustainable CT's website: sustainablect.org. Ms. Brodeur will be the contact for the Agriculture Commission and she will keep the rest of the Commission Members updated.

The joint display at the Brooklyn Fair will count as well as another joint effort to encourage having recycle barrels at the Brooklyn Fair to collect bottles/cans.

The Conservation Commission plans to discuss when to meet with other Commissions (to get information) at its July 8th meeting. Discussion ensued.

There was discussion regarding other towns in the area that are either registered already or that Ms. Meehan and Ms. Avery are working with to get registered.

Ms. Meehan and Ms. Avery left at this time.

V. Public Participation – None.

VI. Old Business

A. Walktober

C. Langevin has been communicating with Bill Reid, but they do not have anything new to report at this time.

B. Brooklyn Fair Display

S. Brodeur suggests that the Agricultural Commission's portion of the joint display with the Conservation Commission could be sustainable agriculture.

- She has left a message for Sally Timmons regarding flyers.
- She e-mailed Northeastern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education requesting brochures. She had a copy of the brochure and feels that information may be taken from it to use for the display board. They have a coloring page with an information sheet. Ms. Brodeur provided a copy for viewing and the Commission Members liked it. She will get more copies.

Ms. Ennis stated that she has contacted Agri-Mart to see if they would be able to provide anything, but she has not heard back from them yet.

There was discussion regarding the size of the area (10' x 10'). S. Karro suggested that Chase Graphics could do a graphic (inexpensively) that could be used for several years. Ms. Brodeur liked this idea for a colorful poster on sustainable agriculture that she found that she is unable to print.

Ms. Wimmer stated that she can use some foldable boards. She will get information regarding rain gardens/rain barrels.

Ms. Wimmer left at this time.

C. Farmers' Market Discussion

Mr. Brodeur and Mr. Langevin will meet in a week or so to install the new sign.

Mr. Karro spoke with Betsy last Wednesday and she said that it was a pretty good day. He said there were five or six vendors.

VII. New Business:

A. Discussion regarding possible participation with the Conservation Commission regarding Sustainable Connecticut. – See Above.

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

VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting

Discussion regarding the Brooklyn Fair Display.

There was more discussion regarding Sustainable Connecticut. Ms. Brodeur explained that the Agricultural Commission is the first that has been approached because she had contacted the Conservation Commission about it. The Conservation Commission will be contacting other Commissions. Ms. Brodeur suggested that Commission Members visit the Sustainable Connecticut website. She feels that this will help bring new people into the Town and help Brooklyn grow by bringing in businesses and tourists. Discussion continued.

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

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Second by S. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary