

**Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Regular Meeting - Hybrid
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
7:00 PM
Clifford B. Green Meeting Center
Suite 24, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn, CT**

MINUTES

To join this meeting via the web or phone, follow the below instructions:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83024601476?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83024601476?pwd=b0NkZitMK0VYUEM0akQrNkNlUFAxUT09)

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Meeting ID: 830 2460 1476

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- I. **Call to Order** Anne Ennis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call (5 Regular and 3 Alternates)** – Anne Ennis, Chair; Charles Langevin, Vice Chair; Lou Brodeur; Sandra Brodeur; Stanley Karro; Lachelle Rosinski. (all were present in person).

Also Present: Joy Tyler, UCONN Extension; Austin Tanner arrived at 7:09 p.m. (both present in person). J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary (via Webex and Telephone).

- III. Seat alternate if necessary – None (all Regular Members were present).
- IV. Review minutes: Regular Meeting of November 25, 2021 (*NOTE: Scrivener's Error – Date of Meeting was November 23, 2021.)

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 23, 2021, as presented.

Second by A. Ennis. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

- V. Public Participation – None.

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to move Item VII.a to after Item V on the Agenda.

There was no second.

No vote taken.

VI. Old Business

- a. Work on a list of local farms for possible drone videos by Kory LeBlanc.

There was discussion and it was decided to work on a list of farms to make people aware of the rural character of Brooklyn and what is available in Town and to bring people/businesses to Town.

L. Brodeur suggested that it may be good to use for Economic Development to show the parcels that are available and businesses that are for sale.

- b. Prepare a list of necessary steps to apply for approval of Inland Wetland Commission to put in new ponds on farmland and/or to dredge an existing pond.

No discussion.

VII. New Business:

- a. Joy Tyler or Zainab James from UCONN Extension will speak to us about the new program for NE CT farms to consumers.

Joy Tyler gave a Power Point presentation which, she explained, is specific to the northeast corner of the State. She provided copies of her presentation, a Guide, and contact information to Commission Members.

- There are 200,000 residents in the region, 130 farm retailers that sell directly to consumers, and 14 farmers' markets.
- 23 towns are covered by the Grant.
- Farms help to stabilize the economy.
- She noted that it has been good to be able to buy local during the problems with the supply chain.
- Farms contribute to the rural character of the region, natural resources are maintained, stewardship of the land.

Start by doing market research to find out what resonates with residents in the area.

Themes/Goals:

- Flavor
 - Emphasis the peak ripeness.
- Freshness
 - By eating with the seasons, you tend to eat a better variety of foods.
 - It takes a shorter time to get it to the markets. Therefore, it lasts longer and has a higher nutritional value.
 - High quality.
- Connection/Relationships
 - Share experiences/knowledge.

S. Brodeur explained that Plainfield's Economic Development Commission and Ag Commission were trying to come up with something comparable to the wine trail and she asked Ms. Tyler if this is something that she would be able to help with. Ms. Brodeur explained that it's hard for farmers to go to the farmers' markets because when they are at the market, they are not at their farms. Ms. Tyler will look into this and will get back to Ms. Brodeur. There was discussion regarding signs and Ms. Tyler spoke about their website which has different search features. Ms. Tyler spoke about giveaway products with the logo on them to help put the word out.

There was discussion regarding distribution of the Guide and Ms. Brodeur suggested that it be put on the Town's website under the Ag Commission.

The mission/goal for the grant is to increase the consumption of locally grown goods by local residents.

b. Election of temporary Chair to run the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Motion was made by S. Karro to nominate S. Brodeur for the Position of Temporary Chair to run the Election for Chair and Vice Chair.

Second by L. Brodeur. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

S. Brodeur opened nominations for Chair from January 2022 through December 2022:

Motion was made by C. Langevin to nominate A. Ennis for the Position of Chair from January 2022 through December 2022.

Second by L. Brodeur. There were no other nominations. No discussion.

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to close nominations for the Position of Chair and elect A. Ennis for the Position of Chair from January 2022 through December 2022.

Second by C. Langevin. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

S. Brodeur opened nominations for Vice Chair from January 2022 through December 2022:

Motion was made by S. Karro to nominate C. Langevin for the Position of Vice Chair from January 2022 through December 2022.

Second by L. Brodeur. There were no other nominations, No discussion.

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to close nominations for the Position of Vice Chair and elect C. Langevin for the Position of Vice Chair from January 2022 through December 2022.

Second by A. Ennis. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

c. Election of Secretary.

There was no Election of Secretary.

d. Any other new business to come before this meeting.

S. Karro suggested that preservation of land could be another use for drone videos to show the rural nature, promote the Last Green Valley/Quiet Corner. Ms. Brodeur noted that the POCD is being worked on and it could promote developing, but keeping the rural nature. Discussion continued.

VIII. Public Participation – None.

IX. Action Items for Next Meeting.

X. Adjourn (Next meeting February 22, 2022).

Motion was made by S. Karro to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Second by L. Brodeur. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary