Brooklyn Agricultural Commission

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

7:00 PM

Town Hall

Present: Sandy Brodeur, Charles Langevin, Joyce Meader, Sally Timmons, and Stan Karro.

Charles Langevin appointed alternate member Sally Timmons to replace regular member Lou Brodeur.

It was noted that in the December 22, 2015 meeting minutes under Old Business, third paragraph, line 2, it should read “Rick” rather than “Rice.” S. Brodeur ***motioned*** to approve the December 22, 2015 meeting minutes as amended. S. Timmons ***seconded. All in favor; motion carried.***

Public Participation: None

Old Business:

 Committee report for “History of Agriculture in Brooklyn:” This item was tabled as S. Karro was not present.

 Review final draft of regulations for (home owner) chicken farmers in residential areas and vote on same and send to P & Z: There was general consensus that the final draft is ready to be forwarded to the Planning & Zoning Commission for its review. J. Meader ***motioned*** to approve the final draft regulations for home owner chicken farmers in residential areas and to send said draft to the Planning & Zoning Commission. S. Brodeur ***seconded. All in favor; motion carried.*** L. Brodeur will send the draft regulations to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

 Review 490 Program presented by Joan Nichols and Joseph Bonnelli at the Middle school: C. Langevin stated that the presenters have a wealth of knowledge; the presentation was excellent. S. Timmons will submit her receipts for the refreshments to L. Brodeur. Commission members agreed that had the event been more heavily promoted, turnout may have been better.

S. Karro joined the meeting at 7:09 PM. He stated that there is no report this month for the “History of Agriculture in Brooklyn” project.

S. Karro noted that the first Historical Collaboration in The Last Green Valley is being held tomorrow afternoon at the Killingly Historical Society. He plans to attend. Killingly Historical Society volunteers will discuss how to perform research. The Last Green Valley is seeking other organizations to host similar events.

New Business:

 Other new business: S. Brodeur presented the draft Source Water Protection Plan developed by the Source Water Protection Plan Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. She also presented a brochure that has been developed for educational outreach within the community. Ms. Brodeur serves on the subcommittee. She noted that while educative efforts are important, the community must also be made aware of funding sources that can cover the cost of implementing any changes. C. Langevin inquired whether any regulations are being contemplated. S. Brodeur noted that the Conservation Commission is not a regulatory body; however, the Planning & Zoning Commission intends to adopt an aquifer protection overlay zone. S. Timmons expressed concerns about Section 3.2 Water Quality. S. Brodeur noted that due to security issues, the decision was made to remove well locations from the plan. S. Timmons also expressed concerns about Section 6.5 Non-Point Sources of Pollution. J. Meader stated that she finds it hard to believe that the Quinebaug River could contaminate the stratified drift. C. Langevin suggested that the commission focus its comments on matters pertaining to agriculture. S. Brodeur requested that the commission members provide her with feedback for the next subcommittee meeting, which is Monday, February 2 at 7 PM.

 Other new business: S. Timmons informed the Commission of two upcoming events. The Canterbury Agriculture Commission will host the next Northeast Regional Agriculture Meeting on February 25 from 7-9 PM. S. Timmons and J. Meader will assist in publicizing this meeting. There will be a presentation on grant writing. Meeting attendees will learn about 1) existing grant opportunities; 2) how to craft an effective grant application; and 3) how grant applications are evaluated. In addition, Amanda Fargo-Johnson will discuss an NRCS program designed to incentivize farmers to undertake conservation efforts.

The second event will be hosted by Green Valley Vet Services in Mansfield. It is a presentation on veterinary euthanasia, hospice, and acupuncture and will be held on February 1 from 1-3 PM. S. Timmons will post this event on the Commission’s Facebook page.

 Election of officers: S. Karro ***motioned*** to table this item until the next regular meeting on February 23, 2016. S. Timmons ***seconded. All in favor; motion carried.***

S. Karro ***motioned*** to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Hopkins

Recording Secretary