

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

7:00 PM

Town Hall

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

L. Brodeur called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and appointed Sandy Brodeur for Deb Tanner.

Minutes from February 28, 2017 meeting: S. Brodeur ***motioned*** to approve the meeting minutes of February 28, 2017. A. Ennis seconded. ***All in favor; motion carried.***

Public Participation: None

Old Business:

Committee Report for "History of Agriculture in Brooklyn": S. Karro stated that he had nothing new to report.

Food Safety Seminar to be Held in Willimantic: S. Brodeur reported that D. Tanner recommends that this event be postponed. The earliest available opening at CLICK is at the end of May. This will not be a convenient time for farmers to attend such an event. She noted that an event is being held at CLICK on Friday, March 31. A talk entitled "Building a Stronger Community through Food" will be given by activist and food writer Mark Winne.

SNAP Machine Purchase for Brooklyn Farmers Market: L. Brodeur stated that he has yet to hear back from Frank Anastasio. He will reach out to him again. S. Karro said that he is not sure that Mr. Anastasio is still involved with the Northeast CT Farmers Market.

Update on "Harvest New England Ag Market and Conference" held in Sturbridge on March 8-9: L. Brodeur stated that he and S. Brodeur attended this collaborative marketing program, which is sponsored by the various New England State Departments of Agriculture. Thirty classes were offered, including classes on marketing. S. Brodeur noted that the cost of attending is nominal and scholarships are available to defray the cost.

Update on Letter Sent to Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning, and Conservation Commission Regarding South Brooklyn Solar Project: The letter recommends that tax revenues from this project be placed in the Open Space fund. S. Brodeur stated that the Board of Selectmen will consider this proposal. There was a brief discussion regarding whether it makes sense to issue a press release. The Commission compared the financial value derived by property owners from 20 year solar panel leases versus the sale of development rights in perpetuity. The Commission discussed whether it might make sense to build pollinator gardens in the solar panels and whether a grant might be sought to fund such an activity. S. Timmons will check into this. S. Brodeur distributed an article published last fall in the Addison County Independent. A Middlebury, Vermont couple is pairing solar arrays with pollinator gardens. S. Timmons noted the importance of using local plants when planting these gardens.

Walktober: The Commission has agreed to cohost a walk with A. Ennis at Kingswood Farms. The application is due June 30.

Sandy Brodeur to Talk with Diane Wimmer Regarding Family Fun Day: S. Brodeur has not yet had a chance to speak with Ms. Wimmer.

New Business:

Any Other Business to Come before This Meeting: S. Timmons reported that she is doing Ag in the Classroom this year. J. Meader and S. Karro also are slated to participate.

The Commission discussed a variety of possible new activities. Virginia Chase in Killingly is working to establish a bridge of flowers across the Five Mile River. This might be an interesting concept for the Commission to explore. Rain gardens were also discussed. The Commission discussed organizations with which the Commission might partner to pursue new activities. S. Karro suggested contacting Harts. S. Brodeur suggested contacting the Brooklyn Business Association. S. Timmons noted that the Killingly Business Association placed planters. The Commission discussed whether it would make sense to participate in this year's Harvest Festival.

A. Ennis ***motioned*** to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM. J. Meade ***seconded***. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Hopkins
Recording Secretary