

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission

Tuesday June 23, 2015

7.00 PM

Town Hall

Present: Lou Brodeur, Sandy Brodeur, Charles Langevin, and Stanley Karro. Sally Timmons joined the meeting at 7:08 PM. Joyce Meader joined the meeting at 7:12 PM.

C. Langevin *motioned* to approve the May 26, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. S. Brodeur *seconded*. *All in favor; motion carried.*

Public Participation: None

Old Business:

Brooklyn Farmers Brochure: This item was tabled pending J. Meader's arrival.

Walktober at Pakulis Farm & Kingston Turf Farm: S. Brodeur stated that she has registered Pakulis Farm and Kingston Turf Farm for this event.

Committee report for "History of Agriculture in Brooklyn:" S. Karro stated that he met with Don Francis and Dan Ross. They discussed Arbor Acres; Pierce Hatchery; Eggs, Inc.; and the poultry operations run by Jewish immigrants. S. Karro showed the Commission members the Pierce Hatchery Exhibit Information binder. C. Langevin inquired as to the period of time during which Pierce Hatchery operated. S. Karro stated that the operation likely originated in the 1920s-1930s, peaked in the 1940s during WWII, and began to decline in the 1950s-1960s. C. Langevin inquired as to the footprint of the Pierce Hatchery operation. S. Karro stated that they air shipped to Maine and Pennsylvania.

The Commission returned to the subject of the Brooklyn Farmers Brochure. J. Meader stated that the brochures have been printed. She plans to bring some to Town Hall and send some to each of the businesses listed in the brochure. The Commission will keep the rest of the brochures for its own use.

Review of proposed signage regulations: The Commission reviewed draft regulations, prepared by L. Brodeur, pertaining to the seasonal display of agricultural signs in the RA Zone. C. Langevin suggested replacing the phrase "not to exceed" with "up to" in the first line. S. Karro suggested eliminating the word "such" at the beginning of the second sentence, in the second line.

C. Langevin *motioned* to present the proposed signage regulations, as modified by C. Langevin and S. Karro, to the Planning and Zoning Commission. S. Brodeur *seconded*. *All in favor; motion carried.*

L. Brodeur will prepare a letter outlining the Commission's recommendation to Planning and Zoning Commission Chairperson Carlene Kelleher.

Further discussion on (home owner) chicken farmers in residential areas: L. Brodeur noted that Chairperson Carlene Kelleher has not gotten back to him yet regarding a timetable for the rewriting of the zoning regulations. S. Timmons reviewed Killingly's backyard chicken regulations. S. Brodeur suggested using Killingly's regulations for Brooklyn. J. Meader would like to add a requirement that manure piles be covered. S. Timmons suggested crosschecking the Killingly regulations with the associated chart. There are a couple of things that need clarifying.

There was a brief discussion regarding possible regulations pertaining to the keeping of bees. Killingly has such regulations. The Commission agreed to discuss this topic separately at a later date.

New Business:

Brooklyn Fair: L. Brodeur stated that the President of the Brooklyn Fair has told him that the Commission may set up a static display free of charge in the Home and Garden building. S. Timmons stated that the display can be comprised of the photo display, the table cloth, and some brochures and pamphlets. It might also be a good idea to display the Commission's mission statement. S. Timmons, J. Meader, and S. Brodeur will coordinate the display. S. Karro inquired where exactly in the building the display will be located. L. Brodeur will check with the President to obtain this information. S. Brodeur suggested displaying agriculture commission brochures from other towns.

Farmers Market: S. Karro reported that last week the Reserved Parking sign went missing. It is possible that it was taken by one of the vendors. He will go to the Farmers Market tomorrow to see if this is the case.

Possible advertising: A brief discussion ensued regarding possible advertising and marketing strategies. S. Karro suggested running an ad in the Villager promoting all of the listings in the Brooklyn Farmers Brochure. The ad could be structured as either a listing or as a map. Perhaps the ad could be run once or twice a year. S. Brodeur suggested asking the Villager if they could prepare an ad based on the brochure. C. Langevin thought a news story might be appropriate. S. Timmons suggested that the Villager could do a monthly feature that highlights a different Brooklyn farm each month. S. Karro noted that the Reminder might also do some type of story. S. Brodeur will contact the Villager to make inquiries.

C. Langevin *motioned* to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM. S. Brodeur *seconded*. *All in favor; motion carried.*

Next meeting July 28, 2015

Sincerely,

Shelley Hopkins, Recording Secretary