

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

7:00 PM

Town Hall

Present: Deb Tanner, Sandy Brodeur, Joyce Meader, and Stan Karro. Sally Timmons arrived at approximately 8 PM.

Guests: Anne Ennis, Josh King

S. Karro *motioned* to approve the April 26, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. S. Brodeur *seconded*. *All in favor; motion carried.*

Public Participation: None

Old Business:

Committee report for "History of Agriculture in Brooklyn:" S. Karro reported that Marilyn Labbe of the Killingly Historical Society has provided him with some articles she found.

Update on Brooklyn Fair Display: D. Tanner inquired about last year's display. S. Brodeur explained that it was unmanned. The Commission displayed the Brooklyn Grown brochure as well as brochures provided by J. Meader and S. Timmons. D. Tanner inquired whether the Commission would like any Connecticut Farm Road Maps for the display. J. Meader can bring the local foods rack from UConn. D. Tanner, S. Brodeur, and S. Timmons will work on the display. S. Brodeur noted that the Commission ordered a custom tablecloth last year and had the mission statement blown up for display. The Commission discussed various ideas for the bulletin board. Last year it was used to display photos of local farmers. The Commission discussed other display ideas, including an article on the history of Christmas Trees in Brooklyn and a recap of the Commission's recent activities. The decision was made to bring all of the display materials to the next meeting and the Commission can try out different display formats. The Commission discussed the unfortunate omission of one farmer in the Brooklyn Grown brochure. It was agreed that that farmer's business card could be stapled to the brochure.

Plans for Memorial Day Cancelled: D. Tanner noted that the Commission already has the supplies it will need for next year's event. Diane Wimmer of the Conservation Commission has CowPots.

Ag Day at Brooklyn Fair: A. Ennis and J. King felt that an Agriculture Commission booth would go unnoticed. People attend only to watch the events, such as the tractor pull.

Update of Town of Brooklyn website: S. Timmons feels that additional links are warranted on the Commission's page. Links to Brooklyn Fair Ag Days, the Windham County Extension Center, The Last Green Valley, FSA, and NRCS were among the suggested links. D. Tanner would like to see more photos as well as updated maps. The Brooklyn Grown brochure should also be put on the Commission's page. S. Hopkins will confer with Melissa Bradley about the best way to effect these changes.

New Business:

Discuss whether to be involved in Fall Festival on September 24 and 25: D. Tanner said that S. Timmons noted that the Celebrating Agriculture event at the Woodstock Fairgrounds is scheduled for the same weekend. Participating in this agriculture-specific event might be more in keeping with the Commission's mission statement. S. Brodeur suggested that the Commission could have an unmanned display at the Fall Festival and attend Celebrating Agriculture.

Other New Business: D. Tanner said that S. Timmons has received an inquiry from Frank Anastasio of the Killingly Agriculture Commission regarding what measures Brooklyn is taking to control Japanese knotweed. J. Meader said she believes that Tom Rukstela is doing something. S. Brodeur stated that they are applying for a forestry grant for the control of invasive species on their farm. Japanese knotweed will certainly be discussed.

Other New Business: D. Tanner discussed the CLiCK (Commercially Licensed Cooperative Kitchen) program in Willimantic. CLiCK is having a fundraising event on Friday July 8 from 5-7 if anyone is interested. The topic of whether the Commission should disseminate information on CLiCK to local farmers was discussed.

Other New Business: J. Meader broached the idea of hosting a Meet Your Farmer cookout at C. Langevin's venue. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of holding such an event in the summer versus the fall.

S. Brodeur ***motioned*** to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Hopkins

Recording Secretary