

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission

Tuesday September 22, 2015

7:00 PM

Town Hall

Present: Lou Brodeur, Sandy Brodeur, Joyce Meader, Charles Langevin, Stanley Karro, Sally Timmons, and Deb Tanner.

C. Langevin noted that the August 25, 2015 meeting minutes should be amended to reflect the correct date of the next meeting: September 22, 2015 rather than September 23, 2015. C. Langevin *motioned* to approve the August 25, 2015 meeting minutes as amended. S. Karro *seconded*. *All in favor; motion carried.*

Public Participation: None

Old Business:

Walktober at Pakulis Farm & Kingston Turf Farm: S. Karro asked when the Pakulis Farm event is to be held. The answer is Sunday, October 25 at 1 PM. S. Karro inquired whether there is anything Commission members can provide for this event. J. Meader suggested that Commission members provide baked goods. C. Langevin stated that he can contribute apples.

Committee report for "History of Agriculture in Brooklyn:" S. Karro reported that the committee is planning a meeting for either Friday, September 25 or Monday, September 28. They plan to discuss further the poultry industry.

S. Karro will attend the next meeting of The Last Green Valley if his schedule permits.

Further discussion on (home owner) chicken farmers in residential areas and future recommendations on regs concerning same: J. Meader stated that she based the draft regulations for the R10 and R30 Residential Zones on Killingly's regulations. A brief discussion of the difference between domestic animals and pets took place. J. Meader noted that there is no language in the current regulations pertaining to home owner chicken farmers in the RA Residential – Agriculture Zone. It is her recommendation to make no changes to Section 3.4.3. She stated that in essence the suggested revisions add chicken farming rights to property owners with a lot size of at least 10,000 sq. ft. She noted that she has included language pertaining to keeping flies and rain out of waste. S. Timmons suggested the following language: "[provided] flies and rain excluded from waste." J. Meader has included language stating that property owners will be responsible for checking to see if there are any deed restrictions impacting their right to keep livestock on their property. The Commission discussed language pertaining to 4-H and FFA student projects. S. Timmons would like to see more explanatory language included with regard to the Statement of Use and Animal Management Plan. The Commission discussed

who will be tasked with approving 4-H and FFA projects. S. Timmons feels that the approving entity should be identified clearly in the regulations. The consensus was that proposed projects should be submitted to the Agricultural Commission for its review. The Agricultural Commission will then submit a recommendation to the Planning and Zoning Commission. C. Langevin suggested that review by the Agricultural Commission be made a recommendation rather than a requirement. There was consensus by Commission members that there be a limit of six hens.

The Commission discussed the draft regulations for the keeping of bees. J. Meader feels that 12 hives is excessive. S. Timmons suggested a limit of 6 hives and 3 nucleus colonies.

J. Meader will revise the draft regulations for the next meeting. D. Tanner suggested that the definition of a nucleus colony be clarified before the draft regulations are forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Brooklyn Fair Booth: L. Brodeur stated that the booth was well attended. J. Meader inquired whether it was necessary to replenish the brochures. The answer is yes. L. Brodeur reported that the seeds provided by S. Timmons proved popular. S. Timmons noted that the display was attractive and effective.

Sandy to check on advertising with Villager: S. Brodeur did not have an update on this project. D. Tanner suggested that each farm story feature a specific commodity; an in-season recipe using that commodity; and a local farm growing that commodity. Hands-on projects for children could be included as well. C. Langevin inquired as to who will write the stories. D. Tanner stated that Villager staff will write them, but that the Agricultural Commission can provide direction. J. Meader suggested that a template be created for the farm story feature. S. Brodeur will follow up with the Villager. The Commission discussed how frequently such a feature might be published. The consensus was that a quarterly feature is realistic.

#### New Business:

Celebrating Agriculture on September 26, 2015 at Woodstock Fairgrounds: The Commission briefly discussed this event. L. Brodeur had previously e-mailed an event brochure to Commission members.

Other New Business: The Commission discussed the Farm Service Agency's Margin Protection Program for Dairy. J. Meader will be attending a meeting to discuss this program. It is essentially an insurance program with different tiers. The larger producers treat the program like a put option.

C. Langevin *motioned* to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. S. Karro *seconded*. *All in favor; motion carried.*

Next meeting October 27, 2015

Sincerely,

Shelley Hopkins, Recording Secretary