

Brooklyn Agricultural Commission

Tuesday October 27, 2015

7:00 PM

Town Hall

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

S. Brodeur *motioned* to approve the September 22, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. C. Langevin *seconded*. *All in favor; motion carried.*

Public Participation: None

Old Business:

Walktober at Pakulis Farm & Kingston Turf Farm: L. Brodeur stated that these events were cancelled. Kingston Turf had already harvested all of its turf. Everything at Pakulis Farm froze due to the unusually cold weather. Pakulis Farm nevertheless received about 20 visitors. The Brodeurs discussed farming with them; the visitors were understanding of the situation.

Committee report for "History of Agriculture in Brooklyn:" S. Karro reported that the committee recently met. They discussed the poultry farms along the Route 6 corridor. S. Karro noted that approximately 90% of the poultry farmers in the West Village area were of Finnish descent. S. Karro is trying to obtain more information about West Ledge Farm. The committee plans to meet again in November.

L. and S. Brodeur briefly reviewed Frank Anastasio's presentation, entitled One Farmer's Point of View, recently given at QVCC.

D. Tanner noted that the rules for the 490 program have changed. There is a new 490 guidebook. The Farm Bureau wants agricultural commissions to play an active role in disseminating information about the program. D. Tanner will get in touch with Joan Nichols to discuss the possibility of scheduling a presentation on the program for local agricultural commissions in January.

The Commission briefly discussed whether the January meeting should be considered a quarterly regional agriculture meeting. S. Timmons will speak with Dawn. L. Brodeur noted that if the meeting is deemed a quarterly regional agriculture meeting, provision will have to be made to allow the individual towns to report on their activities.

D. Tanner stated that the Farm Bureau's Women's Leadership Committee is participating in the Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation's Ag in the Classroom literacy event. She

inquired whether the Commission would be interested in volunteering to read the selected book in elementary school classrooms.

Further discussion on (home owner) chicken farmers in residential areas and future recommendations on regs concerning same: J. Meader distributed two sets of draft regulations. The regulations printed on white paper are the Commission's original draft. The regulations printed on green paper reflect suggestions made by Sam Alexander, Regional Project Analyst for NECCOG. He suggests that a sample management plan be incorporated into the regulations. J. Meader has not yet spoken with Jana Roberson about the draft regulations. It is not clear who would approve management plans. The Commission discussed whether a management plan is required for backyard chickens. The consensus of the Commission was that the draft regulations proposed by Sam Alexander are the ones that should be sent to Planning and Zoning. L. Brodeur suggested that the Commission be prepared to vote on this matter at next month's meeting.

Joyce to make template to work with Villager: J. Meader reported that the Villager is inclined to treat this concept as advertising for which they should be paid. S. Timmons suggested contacting the Courant Community Reminder News. S. Brodeur suggesting posting pictures of local farms on the Commission's Facebook page. D. Tanner noted that Facebook allows for a more interactive experience. S. Timmons feels that Facebook and the print publications target different demographics. S. Brodeur thinks it would be better to give the newspaper an actual example of what the Commission wants to do. The Commission agreed to use Billy Carver's farm for the sample article. The Commission briefly discussed other print publications, including the Putnam Traveler and the town newsletter. S. Timmons noted that the readership of a town newsletter is limited to its residents.

New Business:

J. Meader noted that the deadline for Connecticut Department of Agriculture Farm Viability Grant applications is November 19. This is a matching grant open to municipalities, regional planning organizations and agricultural non-profits. S. Brodeur noted that there has been some discussion of doing a community garden at the Teen Center. The discussion turned to where the matching funds would come from. D. Tanner suggested Lowe's Toolbox for Education program. Qualifying schools can receive up to \$5,000. S. Brodeur will discuss this idea with Bucky.

It was noted that the Brooklyn Agricultural Commission donated apples from C. Langevin's orchard to the food pantry.

C. Langevin *motioned* to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM. S. Timmons *seconded*. *All in favor; motion carried.*

Next meeting November 24, 2015

Sincerely,

Shelley Hopkins, Recording Secretary