

Brooklyn Agriculture Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Brooklyn Town Hall
7:00 PM
Tuesday, November 1, 2016

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

Guest: Anne Ennis

C. Langevin called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and appointed Sally Timmons for Stan Karro.

Public Participation: None

Minutes from September meeting: S. Brodeur ***motioned*** to approve the meeting minutes of July 26, August 23, and September 27, 2016. S. Timmons ***seconded. All in favor; motion carried.***

Old Business:

History of Ag in Brooklyn Report: C. Langevin stated that he has sent a one page summary of the history of Allen Hill Farm to Stan Karro for inclusion in this project.

D. Tanner joined the meeting at 7:10 PM.

C. Langevin encouraged those in attendance to submit summaries of their respective farms' histories to S. Karro for the project.

The Commission discussed the importance of including in the history project Tales of a Farm Boy: The Life and Times of Clarence Salmon.

Update on Food Safety Seminar: D. Tanner stated that a location has yet to be selected, pending a decision regarding a date for this event. Joan Nichols of the Connecticut Farm Bureau has a general presentation on food safety that D. Tanner feels would be suitable for this event. Joan is tentatively planning to give the presentation during the last week of January. Once a date has been determined, a site can be selected. D. Tanner's first choice is CLiCK; the second choice is the UConn Extension Center. C. Langevin requested clarification regarding CLiCK. S. Timmons said that CLiCK stands for Commercially Licensed Community Kitchen. D. Tanner explained that one can rent the facilities for preparation of food for resale. J. Meader noted that a membership is required in addition to paying a fee to use the facilities.

Work on Website Revisions: C. Langevin inquired as to who will be responsible for implementing these revisions. The answer is S. Hopkins. He suggested that the Commission members take turns describing the kinds of changes they would like to see. S. Timmons would

like to see the Brooklyn Grown brochure added to the website. She would like to see it added to 1) the Visitors section under Town Resources on the home page; and 2) Agricultural Resources in Brooklyn under Links on the Agriculture Commission page. She would also like to see links to Killingly High School's Ag-Ed Program and The Last Green Valley.

D. Tanner would like to see more historical resources on the Agriculture Commission page. She would also like to see photos and farming statistics added.

C. Langevin asked S. Hopkins how these changes can best be effected. She provided a brief review of the options that the Commission has with regard to photos. For large photo galleries, it is preferable to add them under Links on the left side of the page. A slide show can also be created in the upper right hand corner (see Parks and Recreation Department page for example) but the show moves slowly so it would be better suited for a small number of photos. Care should be used when posting photos featuring children. It is advisable to obtain the parents' consent prior to publication.

The Commission briefly discussed whether links to additional sites should be considered. The decision was made to stick with links to area-specific entities such as The Last Green Valley and Killingly High School's Ag-Ed Program.

C. Langevin suggested that discussion of the Commission's web page be put on the agenda on a regular basis, perhaps every two months, to review feedback to changes and discuss other revisions/additions that may be warranted.

J. Meader inquired as to how the Commission might promote these changes, once completed. The Commission's Facebook page is one possibility. D. Tanner suggested it might be possible to post a banner on the home page.

D. Tanner *motioned* to have S. Hopkins make the previously discussed changes. S. Timmons *seconded*. **All in favor; motion carried.**

New Business:

Ideas for Outreach and Education for the Children in our Town; Volunteers for Read Across CT:

D. Tanner stated that a book has been picked for Ag in the Classroom: National Geographic Kids' Seed to Plant. Each child in each participating classroom will receive a small plastic bag with a cotton ball, bean seed, and a card that illustrates how the bean should look at various stages of growth. Each participating classroom will receive a bag of sunflower seeds to plant. Information for volunteer readers is to be disseminated in January. Program materials will be distributed in February. The projects will take place beginning in March. Last year 150 classrooms participated. This year the cut off is 200 classrooms. The book is appropriate for 2nd and 3rd grade readers. S. Timmons will identify the teachers of 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms in Brooklyn. S. Brodeur suggested it might be helpful to get input from Mia Breen, who teaches

preschool at Pomfret Community School. D. Tanner said that Sara Guimont, who teaches 4th grade at Brooklyn Elementary School, is very enthusiastic about agriculture.

Any other business proper to come before the committee:

S. Timmons feels that the Killingly High School Ag-Ed Program could be better marketed to Brooklyn students. Various strategies were discussed, including bussing 8th grade students to tour the program. Another idea is to have graduating seniors from the program appear before the Board of Education to discuss their experiences. S. Brodeur said it might be a good idea for these students to speak to Brooklyn 8th graders at an assembly. Perhaps the Board of Education, many of whose members are new, could be invited to tour the facility. C. Langevin feels that the guidance counselors should be involved.

D. Tanner announced that she will be stepping down as Chair next year. She has too many other responsibilities right now.

L. Brodeur ***motioned*** to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Hopkins
Recording Secretary