

**Brooklyn Agricultural Commission**  
**Tuesday January 23, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Town Hall Conference Room**  
**There will be no Zoom log-in available for this meeting.**

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order** – Lou Brodeur, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Roll Call (5 Regular and 3 Alternates)** – Lou Brodeur, Chair; Charles Langevin, Vice Chair; Sandra Brodeur, Stan Karro, Anne Ennis, Lachelle Rosinski.

**Also Present:** J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary.

- III. Seat Alternate if necessary.** – No Alternate seated.

- IV. Review Minutes from the November 28, 2023 Meeting.**

Motion was made by C. Langevin to accept the Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2023, as presented. Second by A. Ennis.

There was discussion about the Ag Commission website and about the 2024 Schedule of Meetings. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

- V. Public Participation** – None.

- VI. Old Business:**

- A. Continue discussion on having Cory filming in the spring of the following:

There was discussion about the filming that Cory LeBlanc did at Allen Hill Farm on the day after Thanksgiving which was a busy day. Mr. Langevin has not seen it yet, but feels that Cory got good footage.

Mr. LeBlanc is planning to film at Creamery Brook Bisson Farm in June.

Mr. LeBlanc will be working on hard copies to display at the Fair and other events.

1. Farmers market at Job Lot – No discussion.
2. Little Dipper Farm – No discussion.
3. Daigle Farm  
There was discussion. Daigle Farm is a fairly big vegetable farm on Woodward Road. They have greenhouses. They have a website.
4. Preserved Land – No discussion.

- B. Any other old business? None.

- VII. New Business**

- A. Sandy has been talking to Lori Corriveau from Little Dipper Farm about them participating with us at the Ag Commission. She has several new ideas.

Lori Corriveau contacted S. Brodeur in December with an idea to create a 2025 calendar as a fun way to bring all of the Brooklyn Farms together to be featured, as well as the Ag Fair. They could be sold at the farms, Holiday markets in November and Ag time. Banks and the Brooklyn Business Association may help to fund it. S. Brodeur suggested that perhaps Cory LeBlanc could take photos for the calendar.

Lori Corriveau also suggested inviting Daigle Farm and Crossman's Farm and others to attend meetings to talk about what they do and maybe give some ideas. Depending on how many people, it may need to be held at the Green Building.

Lori Corriveau will try to attend a future meeting.

S. Brodeur gave an update on Little Dipper Farm/Windham Land Trust.

B. Discussion of proposed budget for 2024-2025 (handout).

L. Brodeur provided copies of the proposed FY 2024-2025 budget and explained that he increased equipment because the Commission may want to purchase its own TV. There was discussion regarding funding for the calendar (discussed in Agenda Item VII.A). Mr. Brodeur suggested that a grant could be applied for with Jewett City Bank.

There is still money left in this year's budget, but Cory LeBlanc needs to be paid.

Motion was made by S. Brodeur to accept the FY 2024-2025 Budget, as presented, to be submitted to the Town.

Second by S. Karro. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

C. Election of Officers for 2024. We need a Chairman and a Vice Chairman. Anyone willing to step up and participate in one of these exciting positions?

L. Brodeur opened the floor for nominations.

There was discussion about L. Rosinski for the Chair Position, however, her busy schedule does not allow for it. She may be able to help.

Mr. Langevin stated that he would not have the time to fill the Chair Position.

Motion was made by S. Brodeur to nominate L. Brodeur for the Chair Position for the Brooklyn Ag Commission.

Second by C. Langevin. L. Brodeur accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

One vote was cast. L. Brodeur was elected as Chair.

Motion was made by S. Brodeur to nominate L. Rosinski for the Vice Chair Position for the Brooklyn Ag Commission.

Second by A. Ennis. L. Rosinski accepted the nominations.

There were no other nominations.

One vote was cast. L. Rosinski was elected as Vice Chair.

Mr. Langevin asked whether ad-hoc rather than scheduled meetings could be considered. Mr. Brodeur explained that meetings can be changed/cancelled anytime and he explained about regular meetings vs. special meetings.

D. Any other new business to come before this meeting?

- There was discussion about the Christmas tree business. Mr. Langevin explained about the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association (which he Chaired for five years). He is not active anymore, but does attend Christmas Tree Growers meetings which are at farms and are attended by scientists, so it is a hands-on experience.

There is also a National Association, for which, he pays dues of \$.15 per tree sold. They are focused on promoting real trees for Christmas.

There was discussion about the shortage of Christmas trees this past year. He spoke of how he doesn't need to advertise anymore, just social media.

There was discussion about allergies to the trees. There was discussion about drought and wet situations and types of soil.

Mr. Langevin spoke about the history of his farm which his Great Grandfather purchased from the William Putnam family in 1891.

- There was discussion about the New England Cottontail Rabbit which is an endangered species. Mr. Langevin explained that his property is considered to be a potential habitat, so he is working with the USDA to provide a habitat that could support them.

**VIII. Action Items for Next Meeting on February 27, 2024.**

- A.** Invite Daigle Farm to participate to discuss their operation and possible filming of their operation.

Mr. Brodeur explained that Daigle Farm could answer questions and the Commission could see if there is anything that they could do to help promote them.

**IX. Public Participation – None.**

**X. Adjourn**

Motion was made by S. Brodeur to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

Second by A. Ennis. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault  
Recording Secretary

Attachment: Proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget