

**Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 28, 2023
7:00 PM
Clifford B. Green Building
69 South Main Street, Brooklyn, CT**

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MINUTES

I. Call to Order – Lou Brodeur, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call (5 Regular and 3 Alternates) – Lou Brodeur, Chair; Charles Langevin, Vice Chair; Ann Ennis; Sandra Brodeur; Stanley Karro; Lachelle Rosinski (all present in person).

Also Present in Person: Corey LeBlanc; J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary.

Present via Zoom: None.

II. Seat Alternate if necessary - None.

III. Review minutes of the February 28, 2023 meeting.

Motion was made by C. Langevin accept the Minutes of the February 28, 2023, as presented.

Second by S. Brodeur. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (6-0-0)

IV. Public Participation – None.

V. Old Business:

- a. View the revised video of Kingswood Farm by Cory LeBlanc.

The Commission watched the four-minute video which Mr. LeBlanc had revised by lengthening the amount of time that the captions remain on the screen. They were happy with the revision and they also commented that they like Mr. LeBlanc's choices for music.

- b. Discussion with Cory LeBlanc on timetable for filming on next farms.

There was discussion with Mr. LeBlanc (who was seated in the audience):

- Mr. LeBlanc filmed for approximately an hour at Allen Hill Farm last Friday and Mr. Langevin expressed that he was amazed at how much had been accomplished. Mr. Langevin explained that the filming involved preparation for planting and that Mr. LeBlanc will be returning to film the planting which will be during the next couple of weekends. He is looking forward to Mr. LeBlanc returning to film on a seasonal basis to capture work around the calendar. There was discussion regarding including some wedding footage, yet not intruding on a wedding party. Mr. LeBlanc explained that he can incorporate footage from a phone video, but best if taken with the phone held horizontally. Ms. Brodeur feels it would be good to give insight into agri-tourism.
- Mr. LeBlanc explained that a four-minute video would allow for one-minute per season for each farm. There is a lot of footage in a minute. There was discussion and Mr. LeBlanc suggested that, after all of the individual videos are done, one video could be made containing a little of each farm which would, perhaps, be good for the Fair.
- To make the best use of Mr. LeBlanc's time, he suggested that the farm owners think about what they would like filmed and give a list to him ahead of time. Filming is best during high sun, no precipitation (drone is not waterproof).
- Ms. Brodeur commented that this will show how much beautiful farmland there is in the Town of Brooklyn.
- Payment for Mr. LeBlanc's work at Kingswood Farm had been approved, but he has not yet received it. Ms. Brodeur will look into it.
- Mr. Brodeur explained that he would like to get as much filming done and billed by June 30th to use the money that is left in this year's budget. Even though it will not be fully complete, something will be needed for the Fair this year. Ms. Brodeur asked Mr. Brodeur to provide a sign so that it can be displayed at the Fair to promote his business, Choice Drone.
- There was discussion regarding possibly getting footage at Creamery Brook Bisson Farm on June 10th. It may be possible to also get footage of haying or, if not haying, an overview at Pakulis Farm on that same day. Mr. LeBlanc asked that he be given a week's notice.
- Mr. LeBlanc explained that the music in the Kingswood Farm video came from a website where you can download music choices that do not have royalties associated with them.
- Mr. LeBlanc explained that he would like to get a sunrise or sunset at some point. Mr. Langevin offered that there is a Sunrise Easter Service that he hosts.

- c. Lachelle Rosinski review pricing on smart TV's. Continue discussion on building our own Kiosk for future use.

Ms. Rosinski explained her findings, Smart TV vs. Kiosk, which was also displayed on the screen:

- The cost for a kiosk would be in the thousands.
- Smart TV's range in price according to size. She referenced approximately \$300 for a Smart TV of 45" to about \$700 for a Smart TV of 70." TV's can be mounted on a wall or put on a stand (the cost for a stand like the one used in the meeting room would be approximately \$200).
- She explained about input using HDMI cord/USB ports, sharing screens. Depending on the brand of TV, an adaptor may be needed (\$60-\$80).
- She explained that there are many options like doing PowerPoint presentations or slide shows of still pictures for the Fair. She said that it would add more versatility. Photos from other farms, for which there aren't videos, could be included.
- She suggested that, while the kiosk is also a good option, going the Smart TV route would save money that could be used for the videos or other projects.

There was discussion:

- This would be shared with other commissions and departments. There was a suggestion that the cost be shared.
- There was discussion regarding getting a stand to make it easier to be used where it would not be able to be mounted.
- There was discussion regarding the best size for the TV. Ms. Rosinski recommended under 60 inches.
- There was discussion regarding where to store this equipment. Mr. Brodeur suggested getting a case for it so it wouldn't get damaged.
- There was discussion regarding timeline. Mr. Brodeur explained that, although the video won't be 100 percent complete, he would like to have the TV by sometime in July to get familiarized with it by the Fair.
- Mr. Karro suggested looking into whether there is grant money available from the Last Green Valley. Mr. Brodeur suggested checking with Patricia Buell to see if there is an educational grant that could be applied for. Ms. Brodeur will research regarding grants.

There was a consensus among Commission Members that the Smart TV is a good value and to move forward with it after researching pricing and whether a grant is possible. Mr. Brodeur hopes to make the purchase within this fiscal year. Action can be taken at the April meeting. Ms. Rosinski found that the cost for a 55-inch Smart TV ranges from \$487-\$650. She will continue to research pricing.

- d. Decide on what to spend the balance of this year's money on this year. Items for Kiosk or Cory LeBlanc filming?

See discussion above.

VI. New Business:

- a. Approve Budget for 2023-2024 Fiscal Year (copies were provided at the meeting).

The Commission reviewed the proposed budget (\$850 increase) and what had been spent, so far, from the previous budget. Mr. Brodeur explained that, due to timing, it has already been approved by the Board of Selectmen, but it still needs to go to the Board of Finance. He doesn't feel that there will be any issues.

Motion was made by C. Langevin to approve the proposed FY 2023-2024 as presented.

Second by A. Ennis. No discussion.

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

- b. Any new business to come before this meeting.

There was a consensus among the Commission Members to participate in the Fair this year. Mr. Brodeur will work on getting a space that is secure (possibly inside one of the buildings).

Ms. Rosinski explained that the video can be looped to play continuously. She noted that power would be needed where the TV would be set up at the Fair.

There was discussion regarding doing drone videos of preserved properties and possibly adding Little Dipper Farm at some point.

VII. Action Items for Next Meeting – No discussion.

VIII. Adjourn (Next Meeting – April 25, 2023).

Motion was made by C. Langevin to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

Second by S. Brodeur. No discussion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary

Attachment: Proposed Budget for FY 2023/2024