

MINUTES OF AUGUST 29, 2023 AGRIBUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
AT 31 LINCOLN ST. NIANTIC, CT

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT

Members present: Mark Christensen, Tom and Nancy Kalal, Jan Shenk Grosskopf, Annah Perch, 2023 SEP 14 A 10:39

Meeting opened at 6:35pm.

Annah Perch
TOWN CLERK

Delegates – Annah Perch – Curator at Brookside Farm Museum

August Minutes – approved 6 – 0

Discussion on potential opportunities for Agriculture Education for school age students. Various websites which provide links to agriculture education were discussed. Examples of potential future seminars or classes included subject matter such as; poultry (turkey/chickens etc.), Maple Syrup production, Christmas trees, and dairy farming. Wreath making and potential horse and wagon rides around the holidays was discussed as well.

Annah Perch provided an overview of both the history of the Brookside Farm Museum as well as ideas regarding potential agriculture education programs that could take place at the Museum.

Keeping of animals at the farm museum was discussed as a possibility. Discussion topics included zoning, care, potential special use permits, and insurance that would need to be researched.

A discussion was held regarding differentiating seminars scheduled by the Agriculture Subcommittee currently scheduled at the East Lyme Public Library vs Education Programs that could be held at the farm. The Agriculture Subcommittee would like to continue scheduling Seminars at the East Lyme Public Library but was open to discussing other agriculture education partnerships that could occur with the Brookside Farm Museum.

An idea was brought up regarding the Brookside Farm Museum contacting the East Lyme Superintendent of schools to discuss the possibility of partnering with science classes to have optional expansions of applicable programs at the museum.

Annah Perch mentioned donated farm equipment that the museum currently owned.

The discussion ended with the Brookside Farm Museum offering to partner, where applicable, with the Agriculture Subcommittee in planning, hosting, and or teaching some future classes in agriculture education if the subcommittee agreed it was within their charter.

The subcommittee to discuss in more detail at the next meeting.

Past Events

Samuel Smith Farm Day – 97 visitors attended.

Upcoming Events:

Harvest in October – will have an apple press and cooking display.

Zoning Related to Agriculture/Farming

Creation of a table that mapped Right to Farm laws to applicable town zoning regulations was discussed. Mark Christensen stated that it may already exist in existing binders provided by the Connecticut Farm Bureau. To be researched.

Other:

Classes attended at Keney Park by Tom and Terri Yuhas in Wethersfield Ct. regarding Urban Agriculture were discussed. The classes were part of the UCONN Extension Service and the Solid Ground Program for new farmers. Potential to bring similar classes to East Lyme will be discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Yuhas

Secretary, East Lyme Agribusiness sub-committee