

MINUTES OF MAY 15 2024 AGRIBUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING  
AT Brookside Farm Museum, 33 Society Road, East Lyme, CT

Members present: Mark Christensen, Nancy Kalal, Annah Perch, Tom Yuhas, Terri Yuhas

Meeting opened at 6:38pm.

Delegates – None

April Minutes – approved 3 – 0

Other Programs:

Mark Christensen discussed the upcoming tractor show scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 from 10am – 3pm at the Samuel Smith House.

Farm Day will be scheduled in October of 2024. More information to follow as we get closer to the date.

Additional Items/Reports

Discussion on the tour of Ledyard Vo-Ag.

The tour was attended by Mark Christensen, Terri and Tom Yuhas. The agriculture program is taught to Ledyard and other area town students interested in agriculture as additional courses on top of their regular courses of study. The program included options such as; aquaculture, livestock, plant science, use and repair of shop and farm equipment required to maintain a working farm. The sub-committee asked how we can help share information about the school to potential students interested in agriculture. The sub-committee was provided with pamphlets to distribute to interested students or parents during presentations, events, or other.

Discussion on potential partnerships with Brookside Farm Museum

Annah Perch, the curator for Brookside Farm Museum, discussed renderings put together by UCONN's Landscape Design group to demonstrate potential recommendations for the farm grounds based on the Farm Museum future goals.

Annah also discussed the enrollment of the farm museum into the "Homegrown National Parks" program. Discussion groups were scheduled at the farm museum on June 5<sup>th</sup>, July 3, August 7<sup>th</sup> with a special meeting with Doug Tallamy (potentially virtual attendance) on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Marjoree Meekhoff was helping with identifying invasives and what to plant for natives.

Annah discussed a potential meeting with Middle School Teachers in the future at Brookside farm Museum to discuss potential educational programs.

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Annah discussed the Friends group and provided forms for sign-up for those interested.

Mark Christensen stated that his wife had offered to provide equine training at the Brookside Farm Museum in the future.

Terri Yuhas stated that the Connecticut Farm Bureau had mentioned in one of its communications that they would be looking at insurance options to help support farm tours. Terri Yuhas asked if people who brought their animals to town events such as farm days or events at Brookside Farm Museum would be covered under the Town's insurance for liability. Annah offered to check on that.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next Meeting: 19June2024

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Yuhas

Secretary, East Lyme Agribusiness sub-committee