Groton Agriculture Advisory Board

June 10, 2019

Members present: : Dan Carey, Sallee Ten Eyck, Jason Oliver, Marty Slade, Fay Benson, Derek Hill, FFA Student Ambassador, Nick and Sophie Darling, Sheldon Clark, Kathy Howard, Monica Carey

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

Minutes from March 25 meeting were accepted with the addition of:

“Jason has 11 students signed up to go to the NYSFFA Convention on Friday May 3rd in Syracuse, NY. It was noted that sponsorship was secured from five local area businesses/farms to send 10 students to the convention. Each business/farm committed to sponsoring 2 students. it is recommended that the students also send a thank-you note. The sponsorships were received from the following:

* DeGraw Farm $90
* Fuller Family Dairy, LLC $90
* Darling Family Farm $90
* JB Machine $90
* Space Farm $90

The board would like to thank Stephanie Hume for taking minutes and helping the board to get up and running smoothly.

Treasure Report: Sallee reported a balance of 1365.88

NYSFFA convention went really well 11 students and Jason attended. Students were impressed and interested in several scholarships that are available for FFA students. Students did a presentation for the school board of their trip. There are photos and videos available to view on the FFA website.

Discussion on trip that Jason and Margo Martin took touring 4 different schools to see how there Ag programs work and each school has a different type of Ag program.

Discussion on how to handle donations that are received: create a letter with donation, name and what money is for.

Jason discussed trip Ag students took to Game Farm they are raising pheasants and students were involved with working with the pheasants while at the farm. They went on to tour Cornell Vet College and the Animal Health Diagnostic Center students enjoyed the tours very much.

Faye Benson did a soil demonstration for the Ag students at the Groton High School.

Faye gave Jason a list of Agribusinesses in Groton. Jason said there are students looking for jobs in Ag related fields.

Jason will be attending a 1 day training Ag in the classroom and Beef training. Case training will be later in summer.

Greenhouse almost completed.

Discussed Groton Harvest- Park Foundation the Building and Trades classes made raised beds and Ag students started plants for the raised beds there are 21 families in the program.

Ag students are growing pumpkins for fund raiser at the Houston Farm. Jason is looking into selling apples and mums in the fall for fund raising.

Discussed Groton Old Home Days will plan on doing corn roast and Faye will check into having a cow or calf at Old Home Days for cow bingo.

Still on target to start the FFA chapter on July 1st. Discussed holding a BBQ to introduce the new FFA chapter and invite the Commissioner of Ag and Markets and past FFA members. Derek is going to contact Commissioner Ball and see when he would be available.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 1st at 6:00 pm.