**GROTON NY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**August 4, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Sally Teneyck

Art Berkey

Monica Carey

Jason Oliver

Fay Benson

Dan Carey

Martin Slade

Robert Houston

Bob Case

Sheldon Clark

Mary Osgood

Derek Hill

Melissa Hill

Meeting opened at 6pm

Thanks to Sally for hosting the meeting at Summerhill Brewery

Dan Carey was recognized for starting the FFA program and for all of his hard work and dedication to this board.

**Treasure report:**

Balance $7,922.67

A check for $750 was sent to Camp Oswegatchie in support of their new dining hall. This amount is in addition to the $250 that we contributed last year for a total donation of $1,000. The Groton chapter will have a plaque in the new dining hall recognizing our contribution.

Gordon Hoy donated $105 – this donation will be used for the students at a future time.

**Pumpkins**

Pumpkins are doing well at both locations, better than last year. There may be a need for students to help with weeds, Jason to reach out to students.

**Farmer Challenge**

Farmer Challenge was very successful last year, it will be hard to match this year, specially a large gathering in the spring.

We will wait for the New Year to figure out if this is something we can maybe host next summer.

**Antique Tractor Show & Chicken BBQ**

Full proposal submitted by Fay Benson

*Tentative Date:* September 12

*Tentative Time*: 11am to 4pm

*Location:* The lot south of the Speedway Gas Station

*Design of Event:* Pavilion along Main St will be the entry and registration site. The area where the 15-20 tractors are parked will be roped off with baler twine.

Fay will take the lead on the Chicken BBQ, Derek to assist with the Tractor Show

Covid-19 protocols will be followed, including signage, social distancing, etc.

50 attendees at any one time

Cortland Produce or Clarks are options to get chicken from.

Students can help at the event.

Something else to add to the show to make it more attractive, ideas are welcomed.

If pumpkins are ready, we will sell them at this event as well.

**Groton FFA Advisor Report:**

Presentation of new Webpage created by Jason <https://www.grotonffa.org/>

Notes and recommendations for the webpage:

* The page is also listed on the school website under the community section.
* Board is looking to add a mission statement to the main page. It will be reviewed at the next meeting.
* Look into Adding Groton FFA Alumni

Dan, Monica and Marty will get a list of alumni started so that we can add them to the site. They will check with the historical society to see if we can get more names.

* The full committee should be listed along with the officers.
* Add a list of FFA Supporters
* Add pictures from the farmer challenge event
* Add the photo of Dan receiving his board recognition award
* Adding FFA officers to the site
* Add Q&A to help parents understand the program and how their students can join.
* Adding the video from the STEAM program to the site.

Looking for other ideas for SAEs to get the kids more involved.

Possibly have a list of possible opportunities to explore, so they know agriculture is not just about farming. Potential experiences with farm credit and other businesses may be something they can think about. Board could come out with a list of careers especially in the community and map it out as more of a resource for the students. This could be more of a career explorations not necessarily hiring.

As we build the alumni list we could ask them a few questions to see if they are interested in helping our students by giving those opportunities, internships, etc.

No field trips this year, however, guest speakers are allowed as long as protocols are followed.

**Opportunities from NYS FFA:**

Three new opportunities from NYS FFA were brought up by Derek that our program may want to take advantage of:

* NYS FFA Store <https://stores.customink.com/ny-ffa>
* Ten service grants at $1,000 each are now available to FFA chapters to support projects at Camp Oswegatchie <https://www.nysffa.org/2020-service-grants>
* Golden Owl recognition program, nominate an outstanding agricultural educator August 1 through December 31, 2020 <https://www.nationwide.com/golden-owl-award/index>

IMPORTANT: The more nominations the better chance for Jason to receive this recognition. We encourage everybody to nominate Jason!

**Next meeting:**

September 1 at 6pm / Summerhill Brewery