**GROTON NY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**November 9, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Sallee Teneyck

Monica Carey

Kathy Howard

Jason Oliver

Martin Slade

Dan Carey

Melissa Hill

Robert Houston

**Meeting Opened at 6pm**

**Treasure Report:**

Balance $7,922.67

**Antique Tractor Show and Farmer Challenge**

As agreed at previous meetings both of these events will be moved to future dates in 2021.

Dan mentioned that the building on 222 could be used for both of these events if they need to be indoors.

**Pumpkin Sale**

Board agreed that the money raised from the pumpkin sale will go to the student’s account.

**2020 Winter Oswegatchie Camp in a Box**

The students enjoyed receiving the boxes in the summer, those boxes were sponsored by the school, but due to budget cuts the school won’t be able to sponsor the winter boxes.

The board agreed to sponsor the winter boxes for the students. Jason will determine how many students will receive the box and will communicate with Sallee to arrange for payment.

**FFA Alumni Group Report**

The Groton FFA alumni list has been started. Copies of the list were distributed at the meeting by Dan.

Ideas to gather more contacts:

* Reaching out to the alumni group in Groton to make an announcement/ added to their notes about the FFA alumni group that is being created.
* Setting up a table with the FFA banner at the reunion this August

**Mission Statement**

We agreed that it should be something short that can be shared on the website.

Marty will create a draft and will share with the board to revise as needed.

**Groton FFA Advisor Report**

Officer Elections took place, the new officers are:

President: Robert Houston

Vice President: Rachel Houston

Secretary: Addie Clore

Treasure: Jackson Slade

Reporter: Brynn Blasz

Every couple of weeks Jason has been adding photos to the website.

Jason has been meeting with students during lunch as schedules this year have made it very challenging to get everyone together at the same time. He is trying to strengthen committees:

 ***Rabbit Committee***

Currently there are 3 rabbits at the school and this committee is responsible for taking care of them.

***Large Animal Committee***

Trying to set up a holding area for an animal, the students from this committee will try to get that area set up. The animal could be a calf, maybe borrow someone’s goat for a week, etc…the goal is to have the opportunity to learn how to handle animals.

One goal may be to show the animals, maybe breed them, and some students are excited about animal processing.

***Bee Committee***

This committee will work on setting up an apiary. A previous student worked on getting the hive structures ready last year.

***Green House Committee***

This committee will be part of a STEAM project with the plant science class.

*Speakers and Field Trips*

Jason has two sections of intro to Ag this year, mainly juniors and seniors.

The environmental science class took a field trip to the floating classroom, this was approved by the school because there was no cost and students provided their own transportation. All Covid policies were followed and students had a great experience.

Next week a couple of people from the DEC will come to speak, and later a forester will come in.

They are allowed to have some guest’s speakers but it continues to be limited this year.

The School can’t provide any transportation to any field trip or any activity. Trinity Valley has invited the school to come for a field trip, they may be able to arrange this, but have to be careful.

The year has been challenging with some of the virtual student’s attendance, many parents that had selected virtual learning have changed their mind and more students are coming back but the school is reaching capacity.

**Heated Greenhouse**

Jason received a $5,000 grant and the school received funds from the Park Foundation.

It has been decided that a small green house will be at the Elementary school.

Still waiting on more information about the large green house at the High School. The plan right now is to have it on school grounds and not across the street.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 12