**GROTON NY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**April 7, 2021**

**Members Present:**

Sallee Teneyck

Monica Carey

Jason Oliver

Martin Slade

Dan Carey

Art Berkey

**Meeting Started at 6pm**

**Treasure Report:**

Balance $7,812.67

**Annual Adirondack Duck Race:**

Ag board agreed to pay for 22 ducks for each Groton student FFA member. The race is April 25th and for board members interested in purchasing their own ducks to support Groton FFA you can go to: <http://www.adironduckrace.com/sponsors.html>

**NYS FFA Convention Registration:**

Ag board made motion and approved to pay for registration of students for FFA convention totaling $50.00

**Groton Old Home Days Event:**

A chicken BBQ and antique tractor show event was discussed. Jason informed the group that Robert Houston and Fay Benson have been working on some preliminary planning.

**Mission Statement:**

A document will be circulated where everyone will be able to provide input.

**Heated Greenhouse Project:**

Dan Carey and Marty Slade met with Margo Martin via zoom on February 24th to discuss the heated greenhouse project. It was decided that Jason and the Ag committee will plan the designing and ordering of materials. A budget of 25K was established for the project. Jason has been working with Nick Darling and have decided on a site between the school and the bus garage. Jason mentioned water and electricity hookup may be at no charge. Frost free water hydrants may be an option. Marty and Dan will check with a few local contractors to see if we can get some time/supplies donated to the project in hopes that we won’t need to use any of the budget for the site work. The school will pay for heating the greenhouse. Jason will also check with “Heat Smart” for some heating suggestions.

**Instructor update:**

Jason will be able to hold in person FFA meetings with his group.

Jason received a biotech scholarship.

Student projects: Small batch of maple syrup produced, middle school rabbit project experienced baby bunnies, proposal for calf hutch and other money to send students to state and national convention.

Cargill provided $1000 to Groton FFA chapter

Callan Space and family matched their farm stand pumpkin sale to Groton FFA chapter.

**Ag board sponsored scholarship for graduating seniors:**

The Ag board discussed offering a scholarship for graduating seniors. Everyone agreed the applicants would need to apply for this scholarship and the board would be able to review applications. Sallee will call the school district office to see how to set this up.

**Agriculture Education and Oswegatchie:**

Art Berkey reported that Empire college has a new outreach for agriculture education and teacher retention (NY and national FFA). Funding available through the STAR program (not the same as the senior STAR program) to bring educators together. New Building at Camp Oswegatchie ready however camps have not been approved yet.

**Next Meeting:** May 12th at 6pm at Summerhill Brewery and there will be an **Election of Officers**.