

Minutes of Brooksville Friends and Neighbors January 5th 2011

Present: Joanne Kimball, Lola Bogyo, Deborah Evans, Dennis Blodgett, Jean Webster, Martha Smith, Peter Smith, Jody Spear, Joan MacCracken

Treasurer's Report –We collected \$996 in donations.

Our costs were \$1425. We have a small cushion in our reserves but need to think of a fundraising project this summer as well as continue to solicit donations. Our printing costs have increased and we are going to request a little more from the town to cover the cost of at least one of the four issues.

Local Food Ordinance. Deborah Evans came to speak about the history and the importance of the local food ordinance which will be voted on at the march election and discussed on Feb 3 and Feb 17th. The Ordinance to be voted on is called “Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance of 2011” A hand-out outlined the functions of the ordinance. This ordinance preserves our constitutional right to grow, sell, and eat the foods of our choice by 1. Protecting direct farmer/grower/processor-to-patron sales., 2. By preserving our local heritage, 3. Allowing family farms to be profitable and viable without big brother intervention. 4. Encouraging agri-tourism and other new enterprises for our family farms. 5. Promoting public safety..the biggest threat coming from the huge factory-style commercial growers not the local farms.

6. Protecting the Natural beauty of our town by saving farmland.

Also quoting from her handout, “The USDA and FDA have made rules and regulations, enforced by Maine’s Department of Agriculture, that have, do and will threaten the very existence of our farms, our farm families and our rural way of life—A way of life that has worked just fine without federal/state oversight for hundreds of years, and is highly sought after today.”

Deborah is asking people to come out the informational meetings and voice your own concerns. She and others believe that each town can choose to not be ruled by these expensive and restrictive state rules. But the people must be heard. Call Deborah for more information at 326-8624 Bagaduce Farms, West Brooksville.

Welcoming Potluck BFN would like to hold an annual potluck dinner for new residents in the town over the year 2010 and maybe 2009 including the new arrivals from birth here. Spring appears like a good time to get it going. March or April were thought to be good times. We can get information on new people from school records, from property changes, from church information, and perhaps posting a sign. Lola and Joan will begin to work on the logistics. Anyone interested in helping should call Lola Bogyo at 326-4530. If you are aware of any new residents to Brooksville in the past year or two, please send names to Joan 326-0916 so we can do personal invitation.

Town Ordinances—Keep your eyes and ears open for the informational meetings, the special public hearings and the dates for voting on all five ordinances. If we want to have some say in the town’s governance, we must keep abreast of the issues on an ongoing basis.

Adjourned at 8:10pm. Next Meeting is Feb 2nd 6:30-8pm Joan MacCracken

