

Connecticut Food Policy Council Minutes

February 8, 2018

Members in attendance: Steve Anderson(DoAg), Don Casella (DAS), Flavia Pereira (DOT - phone)

Guests in attendance: Michael Puglisi (UCONN), Shannon Yearwood (EHC), Meg Hourigan (CFSA), Eliza Cohen, Peggy Zamore, Ellen Sloane (DCP - phone), Taylor Pratcher (Foodshare)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Steve Anderson.

Welcome and Introductions: Steve Anderson welcomed the members and guests. Introductions were made.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Postponed until the next meeting.

Additions to the agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Administration

Still working on appointments, Monica Pacheco has now been appointed as the designee from Department of Education. Legislative appointments still are a work in progress.

Guest: Joel Sekorski, Director – Services for the Elderly, Torrington

- Senior gardens willed a few years ago to the center by Edwin Bowman. Over past years, started to decline, raised gardens for about 9 years, started senior gardening push around the same time as Obama's let's move campaign.
- Put in 8 beds and was able to get more donated. As of last year, 75 boxes; passed out pictures of signs and gardens.
- Got very good press, from the press, was able to get attention from a few other partners, including securing crop shares.
- Sent home with seniors along with recipes and also meals on wheels, kept careful logs of who gave what and where it went – donors really appreciated and came back to donate again two years later and doubled what they gave.
- Tried gleanng, but didn't work because liability concerns are too much for farmers.
- Now have bathrooms, electrical around the gardens.
- Also a pavilion is being built – fundraised for materials and labor is being donated by school.

- Boy scouts going into woods to make trails for them.
- They also have a Master Gardeners partnership – they present to the seniors and then help them. They are trying to get picnic tables now – fundraiser coming for that. Also doing cooking classes, working to erect flag pole now and get grills – fundraising for that.
- Gardens have pushed seniors to walk, garden, dance, eat, socialize and providing more than nutrition – education, socialization, etc.
- Looking for more partners in NW corner, a donated greenhouse to refurbish and start selling their own plants for the plots.
- Have gravity tanks for water and local fire department tops of tanks weekly as part of their training, security cameras and haven't had an issue. Animals – deer and bear- sometimes an issue.
- Looking for beekeepers to locate hives there and has a chain link fence ready to keep bears out of hives.
- Volunteers weed, mow, and help care for gardens, had a maple syrup person

Bowl and a roll fundraiser- soup flights (\$7) or bowls (\$5) and bread, could eat there or bring it home

Penny auction – 100 tickets for a \$1 and you put the tickets in the bags of the items they want

Local Food Policy Council Updates

Hartford –

Center for Contemporary Culture in Hartford Library is location for Food Security Awards – March 21, 5:30-7:30. Nominations closed yesterday, and have them for all 4 categories (Meg will send flyer), catered by Kitchen at Billings Forge, local artist does awards

New Haven-

Just started new event: Stir the Pot. First dinner was last week (see link here: <https://www.artspaper.org/articles/2018/2/1/master-cooks-stir-the-pot>). Food system expert and food is brought in by participants, moves to different places in New Haven. Feb 21 is next one and may be monthly throughout the full year

New London-

Working with CT College to survey residents re: food access and culturally appropriate food access; county wide

Similar to NH – doing “Setting the Table” events/dinners/community space to talk about food issues and is county wide

Bridgeport-

Launched Local Foods Local Places campaign. Had community event two weeks ago there.

Local food policy councils have websites. Meg can put a contact guide for local FPCs together for FPC.

Started 20 at-risk afterschool meals program sites

Technical assistance project grant through EPA that brought in experts to do a 2 day workshop of how to get more local food in. Hartford also applied and waiting to hear – community driven concepts for bringing in more local food

Member Updates

Danbury- getting ready for next season, will continue incentives programs.

UCONN Ext – Jiff Martin putting survey out to UCONN community to see who at UCONN works on food security so they can convene all of them together – first step of coordinating efforts.

DoAg – Legislative proposals

- CT Grown in CT schools; wholesale or retail vendors requires disclosure of where produce comes from; what farm it comes from
- Technical change with farmland preservation program statute
- Defines milk as what's in code of federal regulations
- Farmers Market Nutrition program = doing recert meetings, 2/13 and 2/21; need to be certified with DoAg to be in FMNP and attend a recertification meeting to maintain certification
- March 21st is Ag day at Capitol 10A-1P

EHC! - contacted to inquire if FPC is able to share its legislative agenda and EHC! said there is none at this time.

FPC should be watch dog of harmful food policies and move forward with progressive policies.

Senior vouchers should move forward this year – last year's didn't happen.

Joel- they'll be writing a bill this year – pushing same agenda. Don't take move \$ away because these programs keep people out of institutions.

Organizations/ members of FPC should share policy agendas, concerns and FPC members can decide to support.

OPMs website is where all mid-year adjustments and legislative and budget proposals from agencies are posted.

NEXT STEPS:

Look for legislation and share it amongst the council members.

Next meeting; 3/8/18