



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Commissioner



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

860-713-2507
www.CTGrown.gov

Connecticut Food Policy Council
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
August 8, 2019

Members in attendance: Bryan Hurlburt (DoAg Commissioner), Don Cassella (DAS), Bill Seedman (DSS), Flavia Pereira (DOT- by phone)

Guests in attendance: Erin Windham (DoAG), Jenna Nicol (DCP), Martha Page (Hartford Food System), Meg Hourigan (Hartford Food System), Robin Lamott Sparks (EHC), Jaime Foster (CT Food Bank), Miranda Muro (FoodShare), Sage Saffran (UCONN- DoAg intern), Chelsea Gazillo (Working Lands Alliance) , Helena Hoover (UNH, Nutrition and Dietetics),

By phone: Peggy Zamore (Danbury Farmers Market), Michael Puglisi (UCONN), Director of Food Policy, Town of New Haven, Flavia Pereira (Dept of Transportation)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:10 pm by Commissioner Hurlburt.

Commissioner Hurlburt spoke on the importance of food policy and his desire to maintain the network of stakeholders that are present in this group.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Postponed action as there was no quorum.

Public Comment

Introductions of council members and guests were made during the public comments.

Reports

Legislative

An update was given on SB252 (An Act Concerning the Food Policy Council. The bill was not passed, however Commissioner Hurlburt discussed his desire to revisit the bill and make revisions.

State Food Action Plan

Martha Page and Meg Hourigan gave an update on the status of the State Food Action Plan. They have applied for funding and will give us updates as they are available.

The question of whether or not the CT Food Policy Council could support some funding from it's budget was discussed.

Local Food Policy and Guest Updates

Jaime Foster reported that she had been speaking with John Frassinelli at CSDE regarding the Department of Education food policy surveys. She is exploring using the surveys to collect data regarding hunger vital signs. Would like the surveys administered to all children. Would like to know if FPC would write a letter supporting this.

Meg Hourigan- Is looking into other Food Policy Councils in Connecticut to include in CT FPC discussions.

Chelsea Gazillo discussed the Green Village Initiative and their work with the City of Bridgeport in developing their Urban Agriculture Master Plan. She shared information regarding the plan and offered to distribute to FPC members and guests. Information was also shared regarding American Farmland Trust learning circles at Earthplate Farms in September.

Don Casella- Spoke about an upcoming procurement training through DAS on September 25, 2019. Encourage state agencies and municipalities to attend.

Jenna Nicol shared information about a special project being conducted through DCP to reduce food waste and match farmers with those in need. This is based on RI MEANS (Matching Excess and Need for Stability). Food Share and CT Food Bank both have similar programs and will share information to discuss how they may work together to continue that work.

Miranda Muro discussed the upcoming Hungry for Change Conference hosted by End Hunger CT! CT Food Bank, and FoodShare. Dates will be shared as they are confirmed.

Bill Seedman- 9/30 is end of fiscal SNAP Employment and Training- CT Pathways. SNAP Participation is down 2%. Discussed the rule changes coming from the Trump administration.

There was no old business or new business taken up at the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:55 pm.



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