



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Commissioner



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

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Connecticut Food Policy Council

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2020

Conference Call

Members Present: Bill Seedman (DSS), Monica Pacheco (State Department of Education), Flavia Pereira (DOT), Susan Pronovost (Brass City Harvest), Marcia Pessolano (DPH), Moly Devanney (Highland Park Market)

Members Absent: Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Jiff Martin, Patrick Doyle, Lynn Peccerillo- Hills

DoAg Staff: Erin Windham

Guests in attendance: Martha Page (Hartford Food System), Jennie Hirsch (Foodshare), Peggy Zamore (Danbury Farmers' Market)

1. Welcome-Erin Windham called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM
2. Introductions: Attendees introduced themselves, including new members.
3. Review and approval of regular meeting minutes- No minutes for approval.
4. Public Comments- State/ Local Updates
 - Bill Seedman- Disaster SNAP is available, but cannot be accessed without a National Declaration of Emergency. This would remove some of the eligibility requirements and makes it easier to receive benefits.
 - Monica Pacheco: CSDE is preparing to administer options for feeding sites for students, siblings, and families with schools closing. Peggy Zamore is wondering how. Monica reported that within the National School Lunch Program there are options and CSDE is applying for a waiver regarding pick-up options.
 - Marcia Pessolano reported that CT DPH is helping local health departments and keeping up with advancements of COVID-19 here in CT.
 - Flavia Pereira reported no updates for DOT, but noted that all Agency travel has been cancelled as are events.
 - Peggy Zamore asked how we can help the Food Banks and Jennie Hirsch reported that for now they are running business as usual and working with CSDE and the Governor's office. Erin asked about moving to outdoor delivery options and Jennie reported that they were working with all outdoor options and there was no direct to client contact.
 - Molly Devanney reported that FoodShare is reaching out to retail stores with guidelines such as pick up protocols at receiving areas.
5. Old Business
 - A. Appointment updates- None
 - B. Meeting dates for 2020-

i. Proposal was made by the Department of Agriculture to move meetings from monthly to quarterly. Mr. Seedman expressed a desire to continue meeting monthly as quarterly would be too much information to share. Peggy and Monica suggested every other month. Ms. Pessolano suggested rotating the meeting locations for increased participation, noting that meeting at the Legislative Office Building may be difficult while in session. Mrs. Windham suggested possible meeting location at 450 Columbus Blvd in Hartford and Mr. Seedman agreed that 450 would be a possible location. Mr. Seedman made a motion to accept moving to bi-monthly meetings. Ms. Pronovost seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.

C. Consideration of Hartford Food System Proposal-

i. Full proposal was sent to members prior to meeting for review. Mrs. Page is available to answer follow up questions.

6. New Business- NONE

7. Next Steps:

- Update meeting dates and locations.
- Purchase request will be processed for Hartford Food Systems.
- Contact Sherry Suber at End Hunger CT! to release conference room for unnecessary dates

8. Mr. Seedman made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:31 PM

Respectfully submitted by Erin Windham, AMIR 1, April 1, 2020