



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

October 8, 2020

Via MS Teams

Members Present: Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt (DoAg) Bill Seedman (DSS), Marcia Pessolano. (DPH), Robin LaMott Sparks (End Hunger CT!), Patrick Doyle (KNOX), Jiff Martin (UCONN), Lynn Peccerillo- Hills (DAS)

Members Absent: Susan Pronovost (Brass City Harvest)

DoAg Staff: Erin Windham, Cyrena Thibodeau

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Hurlburt at 1:02 PM

Commissioner Hurlburt thanked all in attendance for their participation noting that we have been making progress to move the council forward. We have conducted regular meetings, have made new appointments, partially funded the Food Action Plan for CFSA, and are building a strong council.

Introductions were not necessary as all members were acquainted

New Business:

a) Food Policy Council Website:

Erin Windham gave a brief overview of results of planning calls that were conducted to determine a vision for the Food Policy Council, noting that a full report would be given at the November Board meeting. She shared that one item that had been discussed was the intent to be a resource for local food policy councils and those interested in starting local councils, noting that one way of doing that would be to create a food policy website that could be a home to resources. A proposal for creating and funding this website was made to council members. Robin LaMott Sparks made a motion to create and fund the website, which was seconded by Bill Seedman. All were in favor, motion passed.

b) Member input on content:

- Marcia Pessolano mentioned the Governor's Council on Climate Change and thought that would be good information to share. She would also like to offer input as to the direction of the Food Policy Council as she wasn't able to be on the planning calls.
- Bill offered to make information available with regards to SNAP and DSS



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- Patrick thought this would be a good opportunity to get feedback from others.
- Jiff would like to see a working group to direct the website build and to make sure it includes food systems information. All agreed that this was important.
- Commissioner Hurlburt asked to amend the motion to include the formation of a working group- all were in favor. He also noted that this would be a good opportunity to include outside partners.
- Jiff would like to include farm labor in our presentation, and Bill shared that there were specific guidelines for seasonal workers that could be tied in. HE will look into those, noting that this is not his area of expertise.
- Commissioner Hurlburt mentioned the Department of Labor Farm Labor Advocate and the Connecticut River Valley Farm Labor organization. He will inquire about a presentation.

Next steps/ Actions:

1. Erin will secure CTFoodPolicy.com and CTFoodPolicy.org and set up hosting on GoDaddy.com.
2. Erin and Cyrena will begin the build out of the website and bring it for council review at the November meeting.
3. An invitation to join the working group will be sent out to members and guests and will be shared with interested partners.
4. Commissioner Hurlburt will reach out to farm labor organizations to arrange for a presentation.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jiff and seconded by Bill. All were in Favor. Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM.