



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
Office of the Commissioner



Bryan P. Hurlburt  
Commissioner

860-713-2507  
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## Connecticut Food Policy Council

### MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2021

1:00 PM- 2:30 PM

**Members present:** Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, Patrick Doyle, Robin Lamott Sparks, Jiff Martin, Molly Devanney, Susan Pronovost, Monica Pacheco, Flavia Pereira, Willard Seedman, Marcia Pessolano

**Members absent:** Lynn Peccerillo-Hills

**DoAg staff:** Erin Windham, Cyrena Thibodeau, Jaime Smith, Kayleigh Royston

**Meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM**

#### Introductions

Review and approval of Regular Meeting minutes- One correction from Monica to address P-EBT as P-EBT round 2.0. Motion to accept with the correction was made by Bill Seedman and seconded by Robin Lamott Sparks. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### Old Business:

- a. Cyrena Thibodeau gave an overview of the concept for research working group, noting the timeline is meeting in April and May to have a concept for research by June or July. A request for volunteers was made.
- b. Jiff Martin offered to serve on the group and asked others to join her, noting that this is an opportunity to move the FPC forward and decide on goals going forward. Susan Pronovost, Molly Devanney, Marcia Pessolano also volunteered to join the group.

#### New Business

- a) *Ellen Teller, Director of Government Affairs, Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)* led a discussion on government initiatives, including the American Rescue Plan which boosted SNAP benefits and extended P-EBT through the summer. This also gave additional support to CACFP and others. Next, the administration is looking at a recovery bill, specifically focusing on



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infrastructure. Jim McGovern suggested that the increases should be made permanent.

The Administration is looking at the Thrifty Food Plan, the basis of the food plan now, to the Low-Cost food plan which would boost everyone's allotments. March 14- expiration of the UI benefits, and boost should be extended to September 30<sup>th</sup> based on that deadline. The deadline should be tethered to econ. Indic of the clients. For example, unemployment or inflation.

Senate will take up reauthorization of child nutrition programs serving pre-school, school based, and those learning in out-of-school settings. WIC, Summer Feeding, and other feeding programs. Sending RLS outreach priorities for child auth that we worked with Feeding America on which contains our priorities. Expand free school meals, P-EBT, which gives parents resources.

- b) *Mark Winne, John Hopkins University, Center for Livable Futures* presented on current and past work of food policy councils throughout the US and the work of the John Hopkins Center for Livable Futures, including data.  
\* Presentation available upon request. \*

Jiff Martin asked how, looking back, Mark might have changed the makeup of the Food Policy Council. Mark noted that given his knowledge of food policy councils now, he might not have had the council seated so heavily in government and noted that as the first food policy council in the nation he was working from a blank slate.

- c) Food Forward NYC- New York City Food Policy Plan: Erin Windham shared a brief synopsis of the program as well as the link to the full plan so others could access it.

**Public Comment:** - none

**Next steps/ Actions**

- a) Follow up with volunteers for the Food Assessment Working Group to schedule the first meeting.  
b) Share presentation from Mark Winne to the Food Policy Council

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM