



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

450 Columbus Blvd, Suite 701 | Hartford, Connecticut 06103 | 860.713.2500

www.CTGrown.gov

Office of the Commissioner

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2024

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Via Zoom

Members Present: Monica Pacheco, Dan Giacomi, Martha Page, Tida Infahsaeng, Patrick Doyle, Shawn Joseph, Lynn Peccerillo, Molly Devanney, Marilyn Lonczak, Bryan Hurlburt

Members Absent:

DoAg Staff Present: Cyrena Thibodeau

Public Present: Mike Degen, Jacob Camputaro, AnaAlicia Cruz, Kim Boulette, Peggy Zamore, Sherill Baldwin, Holley Atkinson, Filling in the Blanks, Heather Peracchio

1. Call to Order 1:07pm
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from September 12, 2024

Martha Moved to approve and Patrick second
3. Public Comment
4. Old Business
 - a. Martha Page, Connecticut Food System Alliance and NE Feeding NE Project Updates
 - b. Attended annual retreat in Fairlee VT last month with regional partners
5. New Business
 - a. Presentation by Tina Kramer and Shawnee Knight of Filling in the Blanks.
 - b. 2025 CT Food Policy Council Planning; goals, topics of interest, speakers, etc.
 - CT Foodshare, Jason, as a guest speaker
 - Fieldtrip to a school cafeteria or to a summer meal site
 - Farm Bill, new administration and changes to the agenda, climate. What does agriculture look like in CT in 2025 and beyond?
 - American Farm Bureau as a guest speaker
 - CT DOL follow up
 - Food Rescue Organization as a potential speaker and DEEP (maybe food rescue/reducing and diverting food waste)

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

6. Board Member Updates

- a. Bryan Hurlburt (DOAG): Over the last 2 years transitioned to a digital FMNP, can enroll certified markets and farm stands. Have live data now and are able to identify communities with higher redemption rates and higher needs and can target pop up markets. Started the program in June. Put a stretch goal to increase redemption by \$250,000 and are within a few days of reaching the 1-million-dollar mark. Uncertainty what federal as well as state funding will look like soon.
- b. Marilyn (DPH): Farm to ECE Project: The mini-grant project with 16 ECE providers is nearing completion, featuring onsite gardens and partnerships with local farms for fresh produce. Holiday CSA shares to be delivered to these sites next week. Videos are being developed to showcase providers' successes and raise awareness of Farm to ECE. ECE Local Produce Procurement Survey: A survey conducted this summer assessed local food procurement practices among Connecticut ECEs, with a draft report under review. Key findings include High interest in local foods but challenges with cost, seasonal availability, and sourcing. Limited kitchen space and equipment hinder fresh food preparation. Gardens and food education are popular, with providers seeking additional gardening resources and funding. Recommendations include: Increased funding for local food. Developing farm connection resources. Facilitating access to CACFP and supporting providers with food preparation needs. Encouraging gardening by providing supplies, guidance, and partnerships with local agricultural experts.
- c. Tida (UW): Going to the Food insecurity event tomorrow, hosting a working session from 2:30-4pm to talk about Food is Medicine. Now leading advocacy and partnerships for UW.
- d. Monica (SDE): October is National Farm to School Month and CTG4CTK week so coming off a lot of engagement and promotion, collecting data and surveys. Looking to keep the momentum going for local purchasing all year.
- e. Molly (Highland Park): Pork strike is not over. Grocery prices coming down, seeing people coming into grocery store for lunch.
- f. Patrick (KNOX): Sat before thanksgiving is annual Harvest Market at KNOX
- g. Shawn (Brass City Harvest): Continuously having successful market, Liberated Land Cooperative wrapped up CSA and have a fundraiser going on now. Going after Growing Food Justice grant, did distribution in Waterbury, Hartford, and New Haven

7. Next Meeting Date: January 9, 2025 from 1-3pm

8. Adjourn

Minutes submitted by Cyrena Thibodeau, AMIR II on 11/14/24.