



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

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



**Connecticut Department of Agriculture Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group
Access to Secure Land Tenure**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 20, 2021
11:00AM-12:00PM

Was held virtually, meeting recorded

Members Present: Richard Myers, Anwar Ahmad, Chelsea Gazillo, Latha Swamy, Zania Johnson, Dominick Grant, Shawn Sims, Ashley Stallworth

Members Absent: Herbert Virgo

Public Present: Will O'Meara, Luis Vega

DoAg Staff: Cyrena Thibodeau, Holly Lalime

1. **Welcome and Call to Order-** Meeting was called to order by Dominick Grant at 11:10AM
2. **Group Introductions-** Participants introduced themselves to the group and shared their affiliation.
3. **New Business**
 - a. **Community Agreements-** Cyrena Thibodeau went over the community agreements and showed staff where that document could be found online.
 - b. **Presentation and discussion with DoAg on existing programs and purpose/task of topic group-** Cyrena Thibodeau gave an overview of the CT Department of Agriculture and its programs and went over the Working Group Document that had been prepared in advance of the meeting. The floor was opened for questions and feedback. Chelsea Gazillo brought up the work of the Farmland Access Working Group and asked if this working group can publish recommendations for policy initiatives (for example down payment assistance programs or tax credits). Cyrena answered that yes, they can work on policy recommendations. Cyrena will put that report in the working group folder.
 - c. **Future meetings: dates, length, documents/organization-** The working group decided to hold one-hour monthly meetings which will occur on the third Monday of each month from 11AM-12PM.
4. **Public Comment-** No public comment.

5. **Next Steps-** Holly will send out meeting notes and recording. Members to provide any feedback on the guidance document. The next Access to Secure Land Tenure meeting will occur on Monday October 18, 11AM-12PM.
6. **Adjourn-** Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 PM by Cyrena Thibodeau.
Respectfully submitted, Holly Lalime, Env. Analyst, September 20, 2021.