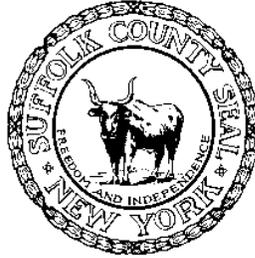


COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

KARA HAHN
LEGISLATOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

- COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
- ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST REVIEW BOARD
- WATER & LAND INVASIVES ADVISORY BOARD
- FOOD POLICY COUNCIL



COMMITTEE CHAIR
ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING
& AGRICULTURE

VICE-CHAIR
PARKS & RECREATION

MEMBER
PUBLIC SAFETY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
& ENERGY

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**TO: Members of the Food Policy Council:
All interested parties**

FROM: Honorable Kara Hahn

DATE: June 9, 2015

RE: Food Policy Council Meeting Agenda

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. PRESENTATIONS

-Gemma Saylor's presentation on "Kids Meal-Healthy Beverage Requirements" & other initiatives to promote healthy beverages.

-Childhood Obesity has increased across the board among all childhood age groups. Biggest increase is among 12-19 year olds.

-Sugary drinks are found to be the greatest contributor to this increase.

-Everyday 66% of children and 77% of adolescents consume at least one sugar sweetened beverage.

-Health problems associated with childhood obesity include: high cholesterol, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, sleep apnea, asthma, and mental health problems.

-Approaches to combatting childhood obesity include:

- Surcharges (Ex. Berkley, CA has a one cent surcharge per ounce on sugary drinks)
- Limits on advertisements aimed at children under 12.
- Limits on the sizes of soda (Ex. Bloomberg's attempt in NYC).
- Warning Labels (Ex. Drinking Beverages with added sugar contributes to obesity, diabetes and tooth decay".
- Adopting "Healthy Kids Menu"
 - Davis, CA recently set a policy that water and milk were the default beverage choices on all kids menus.
 - Disney World has voluntarily adopted a similar policy with all kid's menus which currently read "all meals

include choice of small low-fat milk or small Dasani water". Certain fast food chains including Wendy's McDonalds, and Burger King have also dropped soda options from their kids meals.

- In Davis, implementation involved a self-certification process and enforcement was on a complaint response based.
 - Nothing in the law prohibits restaurants from selling soda or other sugary drinks & it doesn't force restaurants to charge more for soda.
 - Other possible language includes "Soda available upon request".
 - Giving restaurants ample time to phase in such policies is important.
 - Studies have shown that people are more likely to select the default option versus requesting an alternative.
- A sub-committee has been formed to research and explore a similar legislative proposal in Suffolk County. Council members suggested that outreach should be made to the effected businesses and restaurants, as well as the community-at-large. Public hearings should also be held. The sub-committee shall be chaired by Gemma Saylor and joined by Janet Sklar, Zahrine Bajwa, and Josephine Connolly-Schoonen. The sub-committee will report back to the Council at the August meeting and "next steps" shall be considered.

III. COUNCIL VACANCIES UPDATE

- **Janet Sklar's nomination was approved.** IR-1250
- **Abdul Rattu's nomination was approved.** IR-1367
- **Nikki Kateman's nomination was approved.** IR-1385
- **Monique Gablenz nomination is moving forward.** IR-1376
- **Changing "Regional Planning Council" with "Seafood Industry" representative is moving forward.** IR-1447 (This resolution includes the attendance policy as well)

IV. NEW ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- "Any appointed member of this Council who is absent from four consecutive regular meetings unless excused by resolution thereof, shall be deemed to have vacated his/her position on this Council"

V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **Community Gardens**
 - Working on establishing bylaws
 - Brainstorming events (showing documentaries at libraries).
 - Coming up with perks to increase participation.
 - Pinpoint which native plant seeds are most popular and give them out.
- **Food Education**
 - Certain libraries will be giving out free healthy meals to children which will be incorporated into educational programming about healthy eating.

- New York State has an agriculture literacy two-day course. The closest course is being offered in Westchester, but a request has been made to host a Long Island-based program. In the meantime, interested individuals can find more information here - http://www.agclassroom.org/ny/programs/literacy_academy.htm
- Mattituck-Cutchogue School District & Brentwood School District are applying for grants for agriculture education programming.
- BOCES is collaborating with Stony Brook University & Sustainable Long Island to apply for a grant that will pave the way for more nutritional education programming in six communities across Suffolk County.
- ***Food Equity*** (NEW Subcommittee Chair still needed)
 - “Healthy Corner Stores Project” - There are three potential stores and two are looking like real strong prospects (one in Wyandanch & one in Gordon Heights).
- ***Why Buy Local?***
 - Governor’s office looking to establish “Taste New York” site that closely resembles the site at Todd Hill in Dutchess County.
 - Governor’s office likes the spot off exit 67 (the intersection of Yaphank Avenue & LIE service road).
 - Governor would like this to happen in a year (an accelerated timeline). The governor’s current plan calls for a retail-only facility that is 2000 square feet.
 - The County is working with Cornell to partner with State to have staff there that can guide people to local attractions such as wineries, orchards, pick-your-own farms etc.
 - The County would like to see one building that can also serve as a visitor’s center, administrative center, and education center for the Suffolk County Farm.

VI. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

-Nominations will be needed to fill the “seafood” representative if the position is created.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

-Zahrine announced that Eat Smart New York will be doing a kick-off event in Brentwood. Date & Time have yet to be determined.

-Once a finalized Suffolk County farmers’ market list is produced by CCE, Zahrine will share that list/flyer with the Council so we can get the word out via our email lists, social media, etc.

-Vivian announced that there is a new book called “The End of Plenty: The Race to Feed a Crowded World” by Joel Bourne that discusses the importance of aquaculture as a major solution to the dilemma of global famine.

-Peconic Land Trust has announced its \$1m Farmer Cost-share program. Council members are asked to help get the word-out. More info here - <https://www.peconiclandtrust.org/Future.html>

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Next meeting August 11th at 9am - The Stony Brook University Incubator at Calverton - 4603 Middle Country Road Calverton NY 11933

