

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

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COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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

FROM: Honorable Kara Hahn

DATE: October 13, 2015

RE: Food Policy Council Meeting Public Hearing

I. Council Members in Attendance

- a) Augie Ruckdeschel
- b) Iman Marghoob
- c) Gregson Pigott
- d) Jessica Anson
- e) Zahrine Bajwa
- f) Joel Panagakos
- g) Janet Sklar
- h) Mike Haynes

II. First Public Speaker:

Karyn Kirschbaum: Western Suffolk BOCES Creating Healthy Schools Grant Update

- The purpose of this grant is to assist in the implementation of wellness policy into communities through schools.

- Cited Wyandanch, Southampton and Shinnecock School Districts as examples of success stories.
- These districts have seen an increase in the physical activity and nutrition provided to the students by developing wellness teams within the school buildings.
- Stressed the importance of partnering with local corner stores in the community and was excited about the status of these partnerships.
- Augie Ruckdeschel inquired into the funding for support staff or installations of Karyn's programs.
- Karyn explained the Healthy Schools Grant does not fund but supports those initiatives.
- Mike Haynes of Long Island Cares believes they can partner on multiple levels with Karyn and Western Suffolk BOCES.
- Long Island Cares has a new Child Nutrition Food Truck and are always looking for ways to help, if Karyn would identify a priority town it would be advantageous for both.
- **Kids Meals Healthy Beverages Update given by Josephine Connolly Schoonen**
 - Survey received twenty responses and most were fairly favorable.
 - If these twenty are willing to change their menu the Food Policy Council should help promote their efforts. Local newspaper coverage was suggested as an option.
 - Important to find restaurants that want to voluntarily participate rather than use regulation. Voluntary participation could generate favorable media coverage.
- **Long Island Community Gardens Association Update**
 - Iman Marghoob said the by-laws are being finalized as well as the 501(c)3 application.
- **Agriculture Literacy Academy Update**
 - Augie Ruckdeschel provided an overview of what occurred at the Academy.
 - Approximately thirty teachers spent two days touring East End farms (including the host farm Gabrielsen's greenhouses) to learn useful ways to incorporate agricultural lessons into the classroom to inspire children to eat healthy and become interested in agriculture.
 - Karyn Kirschbaum inquired into the feasibility of "tower gardens" being incorporated into classrooms.
 - Augie referenced the hydroponic bed at Gabrielsen Farm as a cheaper more feasible alternative to "tower gardens". The question of limited sunlight in classrooms was addressed by suggesting LED lighting could be put in place.
 - Funding options were discussed. Whole Kids Foundation, Annies School Garden Grants, and others were brought up as possible options.
- **Healthy Corner Stores Update**
 - Food Tasting Mastic Beach- October 23rd 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 - Some additional participants have been identified. Update expected at the next meeting.

- “Food Day”- October 24th
- American Heart Association “Food Day”- November 4th

III. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Augie Ruckdeschel announced that the Long Island Regional Economic Development Board has given recommendations and moved on to the next round of Empire State Development funds.
- Farm to School Grants- Due October 19th

V. ADJOURNMENT – Next meeting Tuesday December 8th at 9am at William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York 11787

