

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: December 8, 2015

RE: Food Policy Council Meeting

a. Council Members in Attendance

August Ruckdeschel - SCEDP
Iman Marghoob – Community Gardens
Vivian Viloría Fisher – Former County Legislator
Nikki Kateman – Local 338 RWDSW-UFCW
Joel Panagakos – J Kings
Stephen Kramarcik - SCDSS
Dr. Gregson Pigott - SCDHS
Janet Sklar - NYSNA

b. Additional Attendees

Dr. Josephine Connelly-Schoonen – Stony Brook University Hospital
Barbara Broggelwirth - SBU Dietetic Intern
Melissa Buscetta – SBU Dietetic Intern
Lucrezia Scarampi - SBU Dietetic Intern

Gemma Saylor
Alison Puglia – Island Harvest

c. Subcommittee Updates:

- Community Gardens – Iman Marghoob
 - a. They are finding success with meeting more regularly and consistently by alternating meetings monthly.
 - b. Trying to get 5013C application passed. They are working with law students from Hofstra. Process has been cumbersome. Important to set up because it will enable the Community Gardens organization to process their funding and individual donations can't be given to individuals who run the gardens for tax purposes.
 - c. Seeking ideas for incentives to promote garden. One idea as working with local nurseries to give discounts on lawn equipment.
 - d. Goals: Fund-raising event to promote community gardens.
 - e. Organizations to target: LINDLA and Johnny Seeds
 - f. Next step: Reach out to early supporters at SBUH to see if they will contribute and donate funds to set up 5013C.
- Food Education - Vivian Viloría Fisher & Janet Sklar
 - a. Goals: Need to invite people from CCE to re-establish committee and do more consistent monthly meetings.
 - b. Janet briefed on recent American Farmland Trust conference:
 - c. Topics covered at conference:
 - a. Farm to School – getting fresh produce to schools initiative.
 - b. Harvesting oppty in NY workshop – local agricultural and land leadership Institute (Cornell).
 - d. Met with school districts. Brentwood, Middle Country, Hampton Bays and Mattituck Cutchogue to assist them in applying for grant money.
 - e. Brentwood received \$45,000 grant to use for planning purposes toward a Food and Agricultural initiative. *Note: Vivian suggested that Brentwood SD use connections to help them get more funding and use the group as resource to do so.
 - f. Mattituck / Cutchogue are great examples of school districts who are really taking advantage and best use of their grant money. They have built greenhouses and are adding that to their curriculum.
- Food Equity - Alison Puglia & Dr. Josephine Connelly-Schoonen
 - a. Grant: Healthier Schools and Communities
Goals / Purpose: Work with local Bodegas to offer fruits and vegetables.
 - a. Provide nutrition education at worksites and childcare. Also target education in the Latino community because the culture is lacking in knowledge on value of fruits and vegetables.
 - b. Brentwood is a target as it is the largest suburban school district in NY, food insecurity is an issue.
 - c. Education Focus: The link between foods, eating habits and disease can help make the connection in the community.

- b. P&N – Wyandanch - wants window vinyl/signage with pictures of fresh fruits to entice people to eat produce.
- c. Weirs Deli – Remodeled store – looks great. Requested funding for tables that customers can sit at to encourage a positive eating environment. Great example of a successful deli
- d. Neighborhood Country Market was involved with Island Harvest in a food tasting; coupons provided for milk and eggs. Kids there tried the "juice and water".
- Kids Meals Healthy Beverages – Gemma Saylor
 - a. This is a proposed legislation based from a program initiated in UC Davis, CA for restaurants to give default beverages to kids be milk and water.
 - b. 3300 surveys were mailed to any foodservice place in Suffolk County excluding donut shops with \$50 gift cards for the first 10 respondents.
 - c. 25 responses were received. UC Davis got 3 responses and felt that it was because this was not an issue for restaurant owners.
 - d. 80% of respondents were generally supportive of initiative.
 - e. 84% offer kid's meals and it is less than 10% of their business.
 - f. 40% rarely reprint their menu in a year.
 - g. 25% are not supportive of passing the legislation, partly because there is a negative perception for offering only milk and water. There was some misunderstanding that the proposed legislation would only offer milk and water for kids because other beverages are available upon request.
 - h. Hartland Inn in Sound Beach has a different menu for kids that does not include French fries.
 - i. Negative and positive comments were shared from survey results. Negative themes included push back against government regulations in general intruding on private businesses. Positive feedback included being in favor of offering healthy choices.
- Why Buy Local – August Ruckdeschel
 - a. Augie – Thursday, December 10 – good news expected on grant application to build new Agricultural Visitors Center at Suffolk County Farm in Yaphank
 - b. A new Suffolk County Agricultural and Farm Protection Plan was approved by Agriculture subcommittee strategy for how to preserve land.
 - a. 30,000 acres remaining of farm land on LI
 - b. 19,000 are protected

d. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

e. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Island Harvest Announcement: Training for community outreach in Central Island provided by Island Harvest to educate community members about SNAP benefits and how to sign up.
- b. Need to deliver Annual report to the legislature. Augie will send template.

- c. Food Waste Apps – passed around handout. Innovative ways to use food that would otherwise go to waste. Investigate food waste in Suffolk County (more than composting) following other models (such as www.foodtechconnect.com startups reducing food waste.
- d. Vacancies:
 - a. Sustainable Long Island
 - b. Seafood Industry
 - c. Food Processing

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

2016 Meeting Schedule as follows:

February 9, 2016
April 12, 2016
June 14, 2016
August 9, 2016
October 11, 2016
December 13, 2016

