

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

**KARA HAHN**  
MAJORITY LEADER  
LEGISLATOR, FIFTH DISTRICT  
**MAJORITY LEADER**  
**COMMITTEE CHAIR**  
ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING  
& AGRICULTURE



**VICE-CHAIR**  
PARKS & RECREATION  
**MEMBER**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION & INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
PERSONNEL & HOUSING  
PUBLIC SAFETY

## COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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

**FROM: Honorable Kara Hahn**

**DATE: October 11, 2016**

**RE: Food Policy Council Meeting Agenda**

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### I. INTRODUCTIONS

- Augie Ruckdeschel\* (Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Parks & Recreation)
- Eric Frend (Mattituck High School)
- Lucy Senesac (Slow Food USA)
- Judiann Carmack-Fayyaz (Edible School)
- Caroline Kiang (ESGEE)
- Bill Whitcomb (Whitsons Culinary Group)
- Jessica Anson\* (Long Island Farm Bureau)
- Brittany DeLaurentis (Stony Brook University)
- Lianne Budd (Stony Brook University)
- Shannon Kearney (Stony Brook University)
- Victoria Miranda (Stony Brook University)
- Cara Montesano (Stony Brook University)
- Zahrine Bajwa\* (Cornell Cooperative Extension)
- Joel Panagakos\* (J. Kings)
- Zach Baum\* (Office of Legislator Kara Hahn)
- Shaun Petretti (Mattituck High School)
- Diane Shulman\* (Schulman Produce)
- Gregson Pigott\* (Suffolk County Department of Health Services)
- Michael Martinsen\* (Montauk Shellfish Company)

- Allison Puglia\* (Island Harvest)
- Josephine Connolly-Schoonen (Stony Brook University)

\*Astereik denotes Food Policy Council Member

## II. **Agriculture in the Classroom Presentation & Tour of Mattituck High School's Agricultural Education Program**

- Mattituck High School started an Agricultural Education program about a year and a half ago.
  - High yield/low impact farming with an emphasis on sustainability captured the attention of administrators.
  - They have an enthusiastic teacher (Eric Frend) whose background is in earth science.
  - They started a greenhouse.
  - Created an environmental science class and had over 20 students register for it.
  - Retrofitted an old science lab to create hydroponic room.
  - Interior agricultural lab equipped with LED lighting.
  - A handful of students (4-5) have now decided to pursue agricultural related fields in college.
  - This year, two sections of the course is being offered with over 40 students.
  - They had the key components for it to be successful.
    1. Educator
    2. Outside partnerships from the local community.
    3. Student interest.
  - They now have produce and are trying to determine what to do with it. The idea is to get it to the students in the cafeteria. Another option would be to offer it in the school store.
  - Right now they are producing lettuce, cauliflower, herbs, carrots, beets.
  - The lighting for the costs about \$500 per light and it has a low impact on the electric bill.
  - The lab is equipped with automated irrigation for the weekends.
  - There designing a soil bench & waiting for an exhaust fan.

## III. **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:**

- **Community Gardens**
  - Worked with Wyandanch School District on tower gardens.
  - Community gardens and CCE will take over hosting and admin duties.
- **Food Education**

- No update at this time.
- **Food Equity**
  - Started working in Southampton with Teds East End Market and La Tienda.
- **Why Buy Local?**
  - Changes to Farmland Protection Program via court ruling. Six year court battle. Pine Barrens Society has been suing Suffolk County.
    - Structures such as tasting rooms, Greenhouses, barns, farm stands cannot be placed on protected farmlands. County can no longer permit these structures to operate on preserved farmland.
    - Suffolk County may appeal the ruling.
    - We don't know yet if it is retroactive and affects prior building.
  - County is weighing options regarding the use of the meat processing facility.
    - Only received one response to RFP
    - Applicant doesn't think there's enough livestock supply to make the facility financially viable.
  - Taste New York facility construction is underway.
  - Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> is the Suffolk County Marathon. Taste of Long Island Festival will feature Long Island vineyards and breweries. Over 45 vendors. Closing off Main Street in downtown Patchogue

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Long Island Farm Bureau is holding a press conference in support of community preservation fund extension this Thursday at 11:00AM. Jessica Anson will send out further information.
- Allison Puglia announced that Central Islip is providing free breakfast and lunch for all kids. No paperwork necessary. The cafeteria was remodeled to feature sections for different types of foods.

#### V. Next Meeting

- December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

