

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Columbia-Greene Community College, Hudson**  
**February 6, 2018**

**Present:** Cathi Annese, Alicia McCagg, Ginger Benedict, Art Bassin, Mike McCrary, Glenda Berman, Nicole Bliss, Bryan Frisbee, Linda Fix, Jane Miller, Joseph Behn, Danielle Hautaniemi, Matt Luvera, Emili Ponte, James Story, Nate Chittenden, Sandra Gardner, Bruce Meyers.

**Absent:** Jeffrey Ouellette, Don MacCormack, Brent Zimmerman

**Staff:** Chuck Brooks, Evon Antonio, Linda Tripp, Marilyn Wyman

**Call to Order:** 7:00 pm by Association President, Cathi Annese

**Approval of Agenda:** Cathi Annese motioned for approval of the Board Agenda. Mike McCrary moved to accept the agenda; Joseph Behn seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Approval** of January 9, 2018 board meeting minutes. Nicole Bliss moved to approve; Jane Miller seconded. Minutes approved.

**Approval** of January 16, 2018 special meeting minutes. Nicole Bliss moved to approve; Art Bassin seconded. Minutes approved.

**Presentation/Discussion:** Sarah Dayton-Associate Director of CCE, Vicki Giarratano-ED in Broome County, and Ruth Moore-ED Dutchess County gave a presentation about "TASTE NY".

It connects with producers and consumers in the community. It was launched in 2013 by Governor Cuomo to promote the NYS food and beverage industries and is overseen by the NYS Agriculture and Marketing. They talked about growing CCE through TASTE NY by promoting and growing agriculture, assisting farms, product development, promote NYS products and highlighting agricultural regions. We have six weeks if we decide to do this in our area. Lots of questions were raised. All questions are to be emailed to Cathi Annese.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

- **Executive Committee:**
  - **Board Committee Assignments** were distributed at the Board Meeting and were gone over. Jane Miller made a motion to appoint members as standing; Nicole Bliss seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - **Search Committee:** Cathi Annese reported that things are moving slowly. We want a good solid search committee, not just board members. This will take time to find. A search committee is not complete at this time.
  - **Interim Executive Director Status:** a motion was made by Mike McCrary and seconded by James Story to make Evon Antonio the new Interim Director at CCE as of a date to be determined. Approved unanimously.
- **Draft Board Agreement:** was tabled until later in the year.
- **Finance and Human Resources Committee:**
  - Motion to approve the **December/Year End Financial Statements** by Bruce Meyers; Ginger Benedict seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - **2018 Budget:** Motion to approve this years budget was made by Nate Chittenden; seconded by Nicole Bliss. Approved unanimously.
- **Financial Development Committee** (no meeting)
  - Discussed fundraising for 2018-Board involvement and leadership is needed. Sandra Gardner brought up "Farming Our Future" as a possible idea. Need more ideas fo the Second Fundraising Event as well as improved marketing/communication.

- Planning on doing the Down Home Dinner/Dinner Cruise or other event (August/September), a Second Fundraising Event (before July 1st preferably), and the End of the Year Appeal Letter (October).
- **Facilities Committee** (no meeting). Hudson Meeting Hall bid is due by February 28,2018.
- **Strategic Planning Committee** (no meeting)
- **Program Advisory Committees:**
  - **Agriculture and Food Systems:** did not meet
  - **Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, & Climate Change:** Mike McCrary reported that they just had a meeting. Mike stated that ENR is funded by grants received and that they have good fundraising through grants. Mike would like Marilyn to give a presentation possibly in April on what ENR does. He also reported that Master Gardeners did 5,000 hours of work this past year.
  - **4-H Youth Development/Children, Youth, and Families:** met on 1/30/2018 Jane Miller reported that they welcomed new members and went over roles. Andrew gave a lesson on water quality. Jane also said that 2019 will be the 90th year anniversary for 4-H in Columbia and Greene Counties. She also stated that they formed a committee and went over meeting dates.
  - **Parenting, Nutrition & Special Projects:** did not meet
  - **Community & Economic Vitality:** did not meet
- **Regional Programs:** the programs Capital Area Agriculture and Horticulture Program, Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program, and the Shared Business Network meet quarterly and will report in March 2018.
- **Government Relations Updates:**
  - **Columbia County Board of Supervisors:** Art Bassin reported about Project Sunset, where the Sunset Motel will take in emergency housing. The county would put emergency homeless there first. It is funded by Galvan. 30% of cost of each room per night would go toward services provided. The positive is that it is close to DSS and will control what homeless will go there. A negative has been neighbors complaining/questioning about it. A vote on it will be in March and plan to open in April. Art also talked about an accident involving a deer at the Columbia County Airport, and the early discussions of a possible common jail serving both Columbia and Greene counties.
  - **Greene County Legislature:** Matt Luvera introduced himself and thanked CCE for their hard work and dedication.
- **New Business:** Cathi Annese
  - Linda Tripp talked about the Morra Scholarship. She passed out applications. The deadline is March 23, 2018. She also talked about fundraising. The National 4-H Council has a new fundraiser with JoAnn Fabric Stores. You can purchase a \$1 Clover or a \$4 one at our local store in Columbia County.
  - Art Bassin brought up the topic of Industrial Hemp because it is revolutionizing agriculture.
  - Nicole Bliss brought up a discussion about 2 to 3 year board terms. Is there a way to extend the service to a 3rd term? We don't want to lose the expertise every 6 years which results in a large board turnover. Danielle said that we cannot modify the bylaws. She mentioned building a mentoring team as a possible solution.
  - Cathi reminded everyone that Chuck's retirement party is on 2/22/18 from 4-6:30 pm in Acra.
- **Executive Director Report**
  - Chuck Brooks informed the board that this was his last board meeting and why he is retiring. He wished Evon Antonio good luck and that he will be a great interim ED. Chuck thanked everyone and said that consolidation is working and that Cathi and Danielle are working on a search

committee and it will take time. Chuck also made the point that 90 % of the board was present tonight and how board member attendance and participation is important. Chuck announced that Angela is doing okay and will return part-time soon. The new board orientation that was scheduled for 2/7/18 will not be happening due to the inclement weather. Chuck also talked about the new board handbook for 2018.

- **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned with a motion made by Nicole Bliss; seconded by James Story at 8:44 pm.

Minutes prepared by Alicia McCagg, Board Secretary