

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Extension Education Center, Hudson**  
**June 13, 2023**

Present: Sherry True, Billy Greer, Josh Lipsman, Cathi Annese, Alicia McCagg, Roberta Keller, Virgilia Tegiacchi, Mike Brown, Matt Maraglio, Virginia Benedict, Linda Levitt

Absent: Elizabeth Chiong, Sandra Gardner, Amanda Pierro, Rebecca Pinder, Tim Ooms

Staff: Angela Tallarico, Jackie Reese, Lisa Gallina (remote), Rebecca Polmateer (remote)

**Call to order** – Virginia Benedict, President, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Ginger requested that the minutes reflect that the Executive Committee met in Executive Session prior to the board meeting.

**Welcome** – Jacquelyn Reese, Office Administrator. Introductions were made.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – Roberta Keller moved to approve the agenda; Matt Maraglio seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Board Meeting Minutes** – Matt Maraglio moved to approve the May 9, 2023 meeting minutes; Cathi Annese seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Executive Committee** – Virginia Benedict

Nominating Committee - Ginger appointed the following:

Sandra Gardner, Co-Chair (BOD)

Cathi Annese, Co-Chair (BOD)

Nicole Bliss, Community Rep

Shaylyn Decker, Community Rep

Nathan Chittenden, Community Rep

For 2024, there will be two open seats for Greene County representatives and three for Columbia. Discussion.

Annual Meeting

Since the fundraiser is scheduled for November 8, the annual meeting will be held December 12 in Acra, rather than November 14. December 12 is the date of the regular December board meeting.

**Finance & Human Resources Committee Report** – Josh Lipsman

Monthly Financials

The board received the April financial statements prepared by Kristin Morgan, Lead Finance for our SBN (Shared Business Network) due to the resignation of our Finance Manager. If anyone has any questions, please contact Ginger, Lisa, Josh or Angela. Josh requested that next month the statements be accompanied by a brief narrative.

Line of Credit – The National Bank of Coxsackie has requested another resolution approving Lisa Gallina, ED, to draw on funds. Discussion. The following was approved:

*Lisa Gallina, CCE Executive Director, is authorized to draw from the line of credit. However, she must first alert the Board Treasurer and Board President. The full board will then be advised at the next board meeting.*

Roberta Keller moved to approve the resolution; Billy Greer seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Fundraising Committee** – Cathi Annese

Cathi provided a brief update. The committee will schedule a trip to the event site, Liberty Farms. Cathi asked for everyone's support. We will need silent auction items as well as sponsorships. Discussion. A 5K has also been suggested as a future fundraiser. Maybe next spring.

**Human Resources Update** – status of open positions was shared.

**Facilities Committee** – Ginger advised the board that Billy Greer is now the Facilities Committee Chair. Lisa advised the board that at this time there were no significant projects underway. Joshua Williams, Facilities Coordinator, has accepted a position with CSX.

**Environment & Natural Resources** – Matt Maraglio (met May 18)

Matt provided an overview of current and upcoming projects/contracts. Handouts of staff reports were provided. Master Gardeners have been very busy. The subject of cannabis production came up. Lisa advised that this is an area of concern for Cornell. CCE can only help with advice on production.

**4-H Youth Development & Families** – Roberta Keller (met June 1)

The committee met with all the staff and learned who was responsible for what. Fairs are on track. Contracts with Columbia DSS moving forward.

**4-H Livestock** (sub-committee) – Meeting at Trowbridge's farm.

**4-H Dairy** (sub-committee) – Meeting at Dutch Hollow farm.

In light of the recent death of a former CCE employee, Ginger requested the association host a mental health awareness training. Becky Polmateer said she is working with Workforce NY on a Mental Health First Aid training collaboration. Discussion. Ginger pointed out that September is Suicide Awareness Month.

**Columbia County Board of Supervisors** – no report

**Greene County Legislative Report** – Sherry True

- Sherry offered to donate a basket to the November fundraiser.
- New electric panels have been installed at the Angelo Canna Town Park. This should help with the Youth Fair.

**Executive Director Report** – Lisa Gallina participated from the ELC (Executive Leadership Conference) in Long Island. Lisa reviewed highlights of the report provided to the board.

- Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado is expected to visit the Agroforestry Resource Center/Siuslaw Model Forest as well as Congressman Molinaro.
- Lisa has been appointed to the Affordable Housing Committee for Columbia County. They have asked if they could profile her relating to her search for a home. Discussion. No one felt this was problematic.
- Becky and Lisa continue to pursue additional funding sources.
- Karen's Flower Shoppe sponsored a Cairo Bear (Smokey the Bear) and it is located at the entryway to the Acra office!

## **New Business**

**Fairs** – Becky Polmateer

Greene County Youth Fair – If schedules allow, it would be nice to have board representation at the opening ceremony Thursday, July 27 at 9:30 a.m., Angelo Canna Town Park, Mountain Avenue, Cairo.

Columbia County Fair – Becky indicated that evaluators are needed for fair projects. Linda Levitt, Billy Greer, Roberta Keller and Virgilia Tegiacchi volunteered. They will contact Becky directly.

**Morra Scholarship** – Becky Polmateer reported that no applications were received. Discussion. It was agreed that it would be offered again this year with awards for the second semester.

**Road Signs** – Billy Greer asked that they be kept up to date with programs, etc. There is nothing posted now.

**NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program** – Matt Maraglio spoke about the program and CCE's involvement. He will send an email to Lisa with information.

Josh Lipsman moved to adjourn the meeting; Matt Maraglio seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.