

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties

Board Meeting

Extension Education Center, Hudson (Meeting Hall)

September 12, 2023

Present: Elizabeth Chiong, Joshua Lipsman, Matt Maraglio, Virginia Benedict, Linda Levitt, Cathi Annese, Roberta Keller, Virgilia Tegiacchi, Sandra Gardner, Amanda Pierro, Rebecca Pinder

Absent: Sherry True, Tim Ooms, Michael Brown, William Greer, Alicia McCagg, Danielle Hautaniemi

Staff: Lisa Gallina, Rebecca Polmateer, Olivia Gordineer, Jackie Reese

- 1) **Call to order** – Virginia Benedict, President, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
- 2) **Introduction/Welcome New Staff** – Lisa introduced our new Finance Manager, Olivia Gordineer. We have also hired a 4-H and Natural Resources Coordinator, Samuel Hopson; Facilities Coordinator, Kody Pinkowski; Administrative Assistant, Jean Bailey; 4-H Agriculture Educator, Lou Groundwater and Temporary Climate Change & Environment Program Assistant, Jaime Winans-Solis.
- 3) **Approval of Meeting Agenda** – Roberta Keller moved to approve the agenda; Matt Maraglio seconded. Approved unanimously.
- 4) **July 11, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes** – Matt Maraglio moved to approve the minutes; Cathi Annese seconded. Approved unanimously.
- 5) **Executive Committee** – No meeting, no report
- 6) **Nominating Committee** - Cathi Annese and Sandra Gardner, Co-Chairs (met 9/7)
 - Currently there are 3 candidates for Columbia County and 3 candidates for Greene County.
 - Will have a dinner meeting late September / early October for candidates to meet the nominating committee.
- 7) **Finance & Human Resources Committee**– Josh Lipsman (met 9/12)
 - May Financials were reviewed. Matt Maraglio moved to approve the financial report; Cathi Annese seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - Resolution to add Olivia Gordineer to have access to the Fidelity Funds Business accounts. Matt Maraglio moved to approve the financial report; Roberta Keller seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - Resolution to add Katie Prack to sign the National Bank of Coxsackie checks. Sandra Gardner moved to approve the resolution; Roberta Keller seconded. Approved unanimously.
- 8) **Facilities Committee** – Billy Greer (next meeting in October)
 - Ginger noted that the sign in front of the Hudson property was empty. We will have 3 lines on the sign with different programs on each line: Master Gardener's will be one of them, along with what is currently happening at CCE.
 - Insurance claim for storm damage at the Extension Education Center, Hudson has been submitted.
 - Septic Tank has been replaced at the Education Extension Center, Hudson.
 - Morra pool/waterfall in Acra – Kody Pinkowski, our new Facilities Coordinator, is working on finding someone to take it apart and fix it. The board asked if all the money allocated to the waterfall was used.
- 9) **Fundraising** –
 - Currently only have 4 tickets sold (Lisa bought 2 of them).
 - Please reach out to past sponsors and ask them to donate auction items, be a sponsor or buy tickets.
 - We are buying 35 lbs of meat from Johnk Farms for Chef Tom Ellis to prepare.
 - Cathi has 3-4 4-H members volunteering and Rebecca Pinder's two children are also volunteering.
 - Please sell and promote the event at Liberty Farms.
 - Discussion followed of auction items we currently have.

10) **Environment & Natural Resources** – No meeting, no report

11) **4-H Youth Development & Families** – No meeting, no report

12) **Fair Updates** – Becky Polmateer

- Greene County Fair
 - o More animals to show this year – total of 118 exhibitors.
 - o There are a lot of young exhibitors, numbers are going up.
 - o Greene County youth were selected to show artwork at the State Fair
- Columbia County Fair
 - o 4-H had more enrollment, barns were packed with animal showings. The 4-H club volunteers were a united front/team and did a great job in the Milk Bar.

13) **Greene County Legislator** – No meeting, no report

14) **Columbia County Board of Supervisors** – No meeting, no report

15) **Executive Director Report** – Lisa Gallina reviewed highlights from her written report to the board.

- She spoke of Think Differently at the CC Fair. We received funding to create a Sensory Safe Space for neurodivergent fair goers and their families. It was a cool, quiet, space to get away from all the noise.
- She attended the 100th anniversary of the Hudson Valley Lab.
- She participated in a Statewide Farm Bureau session to redefine how CCE and Farm Bureau connect and support one another.
- Lisa and the Agricultural Educator visited 17 farms between Columbia and Greene Counties over the summer.
- The ROC – The Rasmussen Outdoor Classroom – Our hope is to break ground in the Siuslaw Model Forest during Spring/Summer 2024.
- Staff and the Fundraising Committee members have met multiple times to plan for the November 8th fundraiser, *Taste of Twin Counties*, at Liberty Farms. Local Chef Tom Ellis has volunteered to cook the meats we will purchase from The Johnk Family Farm in Greene County and the Taste NY store.

16) **New Business** –

- 4-H Art Show
 - o Quarterly art show on display October – December showcasing 4-H members artwork in the Agroforestry Conference Room. All artwork is up for sale.
 - o Reception will be October 7 at 2pm. Please come out and support them.
- Climate Change Survey for Columbia County – please fill out if you live in the county.

17) **Adjourn** – Matt Maraglio moved to adjourn the meeting; Virgilia Tegiacchi seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.