

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia & Greene Counties
Board of Directors Meeting
Agroforestry Resource Center, Acra
October 10, 2023

Present: Cathi Annese, Elizabeth Chiong, Ginger Benedict, Josh Lipsman, Roberta Keller, Matt Maraglio, Virgilia Tegiacchi, Billy Greer, Sherry True

Absent: Sandra Gardner, Rebecca Pinder, Timothy Ooms, Michael Brown, Amanda Pierro, Alicia McCagg, Linda Levitt, Danielle Hautaniemi

Staff: Lisa Gallina, Jackie Reese, Olivia Gordineer

Call to Order – Association Board President, Virginia Benedict, called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Agenda – Roberta Keller moved to accept the meeting agenda; Matt Maraglio seconded. Approved unanimously.

Board Meeting Minutes – Virgilia Tegiacchi moved to approve the minutes; Josh Lipsman seconded. Approved unanimously.

Executive Committee – No meeting, no report

Finance & Human Resources Committee Report – Josh Lipsman

- a) Lisa Gallina spoke about the association's open positions. Alexandra Powers has been hired as Community Horticulture Coordinator and Donna Cooke as Temp Community Horticulture advisor. Donna is also a former employee of another CCE association. Both will be starting October 23, 2023.
- b) June Financial Reports – Olivia Gordineer, Finance Manager. Olivia provided a report and reviewed highlights. Josh advised the board that the Finance & Human Resources Committee approved the June statements and moved that the board accept them; Billy Greer seconded. Approved unanimously.
- c) Resolution to add Josh Lipsman, Olivia Gordineer and Jackie Reese to have access to the Fidelity Funds Business accounts. Virgilia Tegiacchi moved to approve the resolution; Billy Greer seconded. Approved unanimously.
- d) COVID protocol for the staff was updated in the Human Resources Policies. Discussion. Roberta Keller moved to accept the changes; Virgilia Tegiacchi seconded. Approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee Report - Cathi Annese and Sandra Gardner, Co-Chairs

- There will be a Meet and Greet with board candidates and nominating committee on Thursday, October 12 in the Extension Education Center's Main Office, Hudson
- Another candidate is still needed for Columbia County. Currently there are three candidates for Greene County with two openings. Discussion.

Facilities Committee – Billy Greer

- Completed projects –
 - o Roof on Main Office was replaced in January. (Hudson)
 - o Septic replaced over the summer. (Hudson)
 - o Dividers in cubicles on vintage side of Agroforestry Resource Center.
 - o Wood chip path added around The Cottage. (Hudson)
- Upcoming projects –
 - o The Cottage (formerly ESNY) – Duct work in the attic needs to be replaced. Will soon be available to rent out to small groups under 15 people. Currently available for 4-H groups to work on projects/in-person creative space. (Hudson)
 - o Upgrade the kitchen in the meeting hall over the winter. (Hudson)
 - o Fix screen door on the Cottage. (Hudson)
 - o Pole replacement/tree removal due to storm damage. (Hudson)

- ROC (Rasmussen Outdoor Classroom) to potentially break ground in the spring of 2024 (Acra)
- Archery Program (both facilities)
- Regeneron visits. (both facilities)

Fundraising – Cathi Annese

- Currently have \$4,350 in sponsorships and \$1,680 in on-line ticket sales. Silent Auction items are starting to come in. Please buy your tickets and donate if you can.

Environment & Natural Resources – No meeting, no report

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

Greene County Legislator – Sherry True

- Lots of progress made and looking forward to 2024.
- On October 20th at 11:00 am, there will be a ribbon cutting at the Cairo Development Foundation's Black Bear Park in Cairo. Come out and see the 6' x 3' metal art bear.

Columbia County Board of Supervisors – Tim Ooms (no report)

October Program Updates – Lisa Gallina for Becky Polmateer

- Lisa shared Becky's printout of upcoming October Programs. Discussion.

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

- Visited Cornell for an informative conference as part of the Educational Academy.
- Lisa spoke of the Taste NY store and association staff stepping up to help.
- Think Differently - Hosted the first educational program in collaboration with the Anderson School.
- The ROC – The Rasmussen Outdoor Classroom plans.
- Staff and the Fundraising Committee members have met multiple times to plan for the *Taste of Twin Counties*, at Liberty Farms. Still seeking donations, sponsorships, and ticket sales. 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.
- November is dedicated to:
 - Working with Fundraising Committee on the annual Fundraiser.
 - Annual Budget preparation.
 - Overseeing onboarding of the new Community Horticulture Staff
 - Interview for Taste NY Store Manager
 - Agriculture Educator (revisiting the position with two other counties)
 - Community outreach about CCE and our Fundraiser.
 - Ongoing work with Siuslaw and elected officials on the ROC.

New Business

Letter Writing Campaign – Board members wrote a short message to show support of CCE for County Law 224 funding.

Adjourn - Matt Maraglio moved to adjourn the meeting; Virgilia Tegiacchi seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jackie Reese, Recording Secretary