

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County
Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2023

7:00 PM

Goldbrook Farms

Meeting was called to order by President Ron Almeter at 7:00 pm.

Members present

Ron Almeter

Jeff Miller (late)

Patty Benton

Louis Smith

Alyssa Porter

Diane Hovey (NV)

Camille Rosado – left

8:30

Randy Henderson

George Haffenden

Pat Walker

Chad Buck

Dan Heitzenrater – left

early

Suzanne Fassett-Wright

Tom Nelson (legis)

Excused members

John Hemmer, Jan Schauman

Absent members

CCE Staff

Emily Reynolds, Darcy Cramer

Others Present

Approval of Minutes. Jeff Miller proposed a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May 22 meeting as presented. Chad Buck seconded the motion. Motion carried: 10 ayes, 0 nays.

Finance Committee report given by George Haffenden and Darcy Cramer.

Cash position seems to be fantastic. SNAP funding coming in, animal sale numbers coming in well also, closer in line to where they are historically. Payouts are typical Cornell expenses.

Carryover discussions regarding setting up new accounts and credit cards, leftover from July meeting. Assets just over \$1,000,000. Four or five ARPA projects finished up, waiting on final reports to request payment from the County. CCE-C pays farmer, then county pays CCE-C

Patty Benton Proposed a motion to accept the financials pending annual review, Alyssa Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried: 11 ayes, 0 nays.

Executive Director's presentation given by Emily Reynolds (attached).

- Met with CHQ County planning department, requested \$18,000 increase, talked to legislature to let them know. Preliminary budget released Wednesday, then meets to discuss.
- Received New York Food for NY Families grant, can use until August 2025, to purchase local food and distribute to community with no strings attached. Will be hiring food systems resource educator to administrate. This person will be looking for additional funding as well to sustain support for this position. Plans to use reserve funds to support this position also. Job description at Cornell campus for approval, hoping to start January 1. Four distribution sites, Briggiotta's staging area and distribution, Jamestown Mobile Market food truck will transport, Jamestown Office of the Aging, Dunkirk Salvation Army, Sherman site TBA. Also included are freezer purchases to support meat & dairy included in distribution. Purchases must be from NYS. Has to be USDA inspected and approved for resale. Briggiotta's already doing the tracking to ensure it's all coming from NYS. CCE-C will invoice after distribution.
- SNAP grant for next 5 years approved.
- Ag in the Classroom 4H position: 8 candidates
- Rose Clark will start as ag coordinator on October 5
- New EFNEP proposal – 1 year extension, also approved for further extension if needed. Challenges are getting people to sign up and to complete. Have funding through end of 2024, hoping to apply for the next 5 years. CCE-C has two EFNEP educators currently.
- Fundraiser with 4H: selling box of apples for \$20 from Briggiotta's.
- Candy bar fundraisers through end of October for 4H.
- Chris Watkins was removed as director of Cornell Cooperative Extension. New director's name is Jenny Kao-Kaniffen.
- Annual meeting October 18 at 6pm at Clarion Hotel in Dunkirk
- Hired regional climate specialist, grant through NYSERTA working with PUSH Buffalo
- Went to listening forum on Farm Bill, with Langworthy, and heard chairman of ag committee GT Thompson. (Ron) many spoke on need to increase budget for ag research and education (CCE programs), goal to increase from 2% to 4%.
- Tour highlight CCE-C working with CHQ County, followed Hungarian hot pepper farming through to Crunch Roll production. Showed from field to consumer. Manufactured in Westfield. Selling at over 1,000 retail locations. Demonstrating that farming connects directly to manufacturing. ~53 people took the tour.

Legislative Report

- County legislature supportive of increased funding for CCE-C efforts. Emily does not know if it's in the budget yet, described and clarified process.

- John – last month extended term of bed tax

Program Committee Reports

- 4-H (reported by Louis Smith and Jan Schauman)
 - Louis – County Fair: great year, no incidents this year
 - Meat animal sale: less animals, but more money
 - Emily: advisory committee educates kids on how to talk with buyers, how to keep accurate records
 - Working to update educational methods
 - Added dairy boxes
 - New Years Enrollment recruitment
 - Looking for new host for 4H dinner Green Tie Affair
 - Brought concern about parents going around proper channels to have addressed. Emily clarified that complaints go to Exec Dir to be addressed, must be written formal complaints, refer to policy book
- Agriculture (Ron Almeter and Jeff Miller)
 - Open Barn Door Day occurred
 - Good representation from all farmers around at Town Hall meeting previously discussed
 - Grape Research and Development hosted CDL training session, aimed at farm vehicle ownership needs, takeaway: in cooperation with Farm Bureau, should continue to support and promote
 - Next ag committee member November 16
- Master Gardeners (Dinah Hovey)
 - Lots of learning activities going on in local libraries, Ripley library, Love Elementary School, Ashville Library, Cassadaga library
 - Evening in the Garden sessions in August, encouraged ways to be more ecologically friendly
 - Job corps garden club still up and going, came to demo garden at JCC
 - Had volunteers at Open Barn Door
 - Optimistic Gardener publication coming out – featuring harmful plants
 - Meeting with head of B&G at JCC, new site selection for demo garden in front of science building. Proposal sent to JCC Board.
 - Hosted garden symposium that discussed better way of planting, various talks and displays, had door prizes
 - Selling raffle tickets for terrarium, drawing will be in November, can buy tickets in CCE office

Community Partner Reports

Old Business

iCap Study Review – board members received survey link, must be completed by September 29. Selection of consultant underway, hoping to finalize by mid-October. Need volunteers to interview candidates.

New Business

Motion by Randy Henderson to approve HR 403 Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy, effective July 17, 2023, seconded by Chad Buck. 9 ayes, 0 nays

Motion by Chad Buck to open a new credit card with national credit card bank with a requested limit of \$10,000.000, with no annual fee, seconded by Alyssa Port. 9 ayes, 0 nays

Motion by Chad Buck to open a savings account at Lakeshore Savings bank with the account signors, Emily Reynolds, Lucia Conti, George Haffenden, and Ron Almeter, Seconded by Patty Benton. 9 ayes, 0 nays.

Motion by Randy Henderson to move \$10,000 out of the Key Bank to close that account into Lakeshore Savings Bank account to reduce our balances currently exceeding the FDIC limits, seconded by Jeff Miller. 9 ayes, 0 nays

Motion by Alyssa to approve the receipt of the NYS Department of AG NY Food for NY Families \$800,000 grant, seconded by Jeff. 9 ayes, 0 nays

Discussion about AR from 4-H Foundation, \$507.51 from 2022 and as of September 30, 2023 \$378.63 due to CCE.

Motion by Jeff to release \$14,722.60 from 2022 and \$2,220 from 2023 Friends of 4-H, total of \$16, 942.60 to the 4-H endowment Fund at (CRCF) Chautauqua Regio Community Foundation, seconded by Chad. 9 ayes, 0 nays

Motion by Pat to consider \$10.00 of 2022 unclaimed funds as a donation to 4-H, seconded by Chad. 9 ayes, 0 nays

Additions to Agenda

Announcements:

CCE Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 18 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center on Lake Erie, Shorewood Drive Dunkirk, catered by Steelbound of Dunkirk.

Next regular board meeting will be, November 27, 2023, 7:00 pm, CLEREL.

Adjournment: Motion made by Randy Henderson, Chad Buck provided a second. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.