

Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County

Board of Directors Meeting

March 24, 2025

Minutes

In Attendance: Kathi Nywening, Gordon Dean, Amy Minutolo, Rachel Carr, Nancy Proyect Rider, Paul Ruszkiewicz, Jill Marie, Lagwana Tyler, Tom Manza (Zoom)

Absent: Edwin Estrada, Tamara Lajara, Richard Mayfield, Paul Wiley, Adam Hughes

Staff In Attendance: Lucy Joyce, Amanda Sostre, Jill Van Aken, Cynthia Blomquist, Jahiem Azeez, Maire Ullrich, Shayna Russo

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:05PM by Board President, Gordon Dean; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Kathi Nywening

Introduction: Jahiem Azeez – HR Coordinator

Reading & Approval of Minutes: February 24, 2025

Motion by Nancy Proyect Rider, seconded by Amy Minutolo to approve the February 24, 2025 Board of Director Meeting Minutes as presented. Vote taken – unanimous; motion passed.

Correspondence:

- Email was received from Orion Russell Blake – Flooded Farms about rice production. He would like to present before the Board of Directors.
 - o Email was sent to Mr. Blake responding, but no response thus far

Program Reports:

- *Agriculture* – Maire Ullrich, Program Leader
 - o Dairy Day last week went great
 - o Classrooms planting cucumber with Susan N. – 2nd & 3rd grade
- *SNAP-Ed* – Shayna Russo, Program Leader
 - o SNAP-Ed plan amendment signed last Friday

- Hoping to be able to start submitting vouchers next week
- Farm bill is on continuing resolution to September
- *Family & Consumer Sciences & 4-H*
 - Annemarie – will be retiring at the end of the month
 - Luis Hernandez was hired to replace her

President's Report: Gordon Dean

- Participated in Nominating Committee
 - Had 8 applicants
 - 5 were chosen: Shawne Demberg, Susan Watson Turner, Christopher Harrison, Kathleen Doyle, and Narcissa Smith-Harris

Motion by Gordon Dean, seconded by Kathi Nywening to add these 5 applicants to the Program Advisory Committee (PAC). Vote taken – unanimous; motion passed.

- DASNY CREST (#2) – good financial status, should be able to complete many items with this grant.
- Park in solid financial status

Board Presentation: March is Nutrition Month – Shayna Russo

- National Nutrition Month
 - Food Connects Us → Potatoes
 - Herb Potato Salad
 - Southwest Potatoes
 - Sweet Potato Hash
 - Update of Website

Executive Director's Report: Lucy Joyce

- All Staff & Board Member Retreat – May 5th 9AM-1PM at the Park with lunch provided
- Possible Pow Wow at the Park

Report of Liaison Representatives:

- *Orange County Legislators* – Paul Ruskiewicz
 - New chairman & committee assignments
 - Now on public safety committee
 - Everyone is up for election & new districts

- County in good financial shape

Committee Reports:

- *Finance Committee – Tom Manza*
 - Year end finished, budget amended
 - \$190K increase in general fund
 - A/R & A/P continue going down
 - Reduced federal revenue due to federal situation
 - Staff salaries went down
 - Budget Revenue reduced to not including some Federal Grants
 - 2 lines of credit with Jeff Bank

Motion by Kathi Nywening, seconded by Gordon Dean to cancel one of our two – \$250K lines of credit with Jeff Bank. Vote taken – unanimous; motion passed.

Motion by Jill Marie, seconded by Nancy Proyect Rider to accept as presented our December 2024 Financials, Year End 2024 Financial Statements and 2024 Notes to Financial Statements Report. Vote taken – unanimous; motion passed.

Motion by Kathi Nywening, seconded by Gordon Dean to approve the Revised 2025 Budget. Vote taken – unanimous; motion passed.

Motion by Nancy Proyect Rider, seconded by Amy Minutolo to approve Designated Fund Transfers (without restrictions) and Temporarily Restricted Schedules. Vote taken – unanimous; motion passed.

- *Fund Development Committee – Amy Minutolo*
 - Moving forward with Wash Rack
 - Meeting with Poinsetta about having Pow Wow at Park
 - 5/21 Hudson Valley Gives – Need to promote more
 - Jill to work with Staff on target campaign
 - MHVCU – sponsorship proposals
 - Looking to expand sponsorship
- *Park & Facilities Committee – Lagwana Tyler*
 - No update
 - Next meeting is April 3rd, 2025

Unfinished Business:

- DASNY Grant

- \$800K – applying on 3/31
 - \$150K - Storage
 - \$150K - Heating Kosuga
 - \$500K - Camping Area
 - Will go out to bid on anything over \$30K

Motion by Kathi Nywening, seconded by Jill Marie to approve resolution. Vote taken – unanimous; motion passed.

Adjournment: Motion by Paul Ruszkiewicz to adjourn at 8:07PM. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Nywening, Board Secretary

Amanda Sostre, Recording Secretary