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Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

October 25, 2022

Kristin Pullyblank welcomed all in attendance and passed to Liz Callahan for further introductions.

Liz Callahan thanked everyone for attending the annual meeting, and for being very welcoming in her first 6 months as Executive Director. As she has lived in Otsego County for 31 years, she is very aware of the work that CCESO does for our community and is grateful to be a part of it. Liz went on to introduce staff. Liz recognized staff members who have milestone anniversaries this year including Teresa Adell for 5 years of service, Mayra Richter for 5 years of service and Madelyn Sanchez Taylor for 25 years of service.

Kristin Pullyblank continued by acknowledging Marilyn Wayman for her guidance as interim executive director for the beginning of this year and expressed her gratitude on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff.

Liz introduced each board member and then board members introduced themselves as well as their title and position on the board.

Deb Gansinger Hall recognized board members who are at the end of their term, including Sarah Goodrich, Kristin Pullyblank and Jason Stone.

Nicole Tommell from Central NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops team introduced the other specialists on her team and briefly explained the different things that the team does from dairy, to succession, to mental health to benchmarking. Nicole also discussed upcoming workshops and events and grants they are working on.

Lauren Anderson presented on the 10th Annual Family Farm Day, which provides an opportunity for small farms to connect with local buyers, creating long term customers and strong relationships within the community. Lauren also shared some quotes from local farmers about what FFD brings to their farm.

David Cox, interim program facilitator for Agriculture, Horticulture and Farm to School, briefly explained what each program does. He explained that the Farm to School 30% Initiative is a program in which each school that spends 30% of their food budget on NYS products, are then eligible for a 25% per meal subsidy that would boost their budgets while supporting NYS farms. The horticulture program primarily focuses on the Master Gardener Volunteer Program as well as training

new Master Gardener Volunteer Apprentices. MGVs primary purpose is to work to expand educational outreach and assist home gardeners with research-based education, by teaching classes, workshops, demonstration gardens and more. Pati Grady announced that after 9 years of planning, the Grow with CCE Learning Garden had its groundbreaking ceremony on September 16th. David went on to discuss the agriculture program and its main goals being helping to keep land in farming, resources for new farmers, working with the local area teams and other resources within our area and Cornell.

Michelle Leveski introduced herself and the EFNEP program, which provides nutrition education to low-income families with children for more than 50 years. EFNEP provides hands on, interactive workshops to help food and physical activity behaviors, food resource management, food safety and food security.

Kim Ferstler introduced herself and the Healthy Connections program, which is a sister program to EFNEP for older adults and other individuals who don't meet the income eligibility requirements of EFNEP for every age and stage in life. Healthy Connections provides fun, interactive and supportive classes both in person and virtually. In person classes have been held at Community Centers, libraries, after school centers, after school programs and more.

Teresa Adell and Catherine Roberts presented jointly on Schoharie and Otsego County 4-H. They provided a brief overview of what 4-H is about and the goals of the program for all youth involved. Their presentation continued with a picture slideshow of the over 70 programs and events that were held this year between the two counties.

Susan Salisbury presented on the After School Program at Schoharie Central School. She stated that they currently have 30 students enrolled with a waiting list for possible future openings upon hiring new staff. ASP provides homework help to all students, recreational activities outside and in the gymnasium, basic Spanish classes with Miss Valentina and a newspaper club with Mr. D which teaches the students photography and writing skills. The students also organize and lead their own clubs on topics they and their peers have an interest in.

Kristin Pullyblank thanked all program staff for their wonderful presentations and stated that the future of our world is in good hands with the youth of CCESO from the guidance our staff has provided.

Kristin Pullyblank called the annual business meeting to order and asked that everyone in attendance review the minutes from last year's annual meeting. Jason

Stone moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Pati Grady. The business meeting continued with a brief overview of the association's financial reports. The association is financed through multiple mechanisms of fed state and county levels, as well as individual and corporate donors and fundraisers. Kristin thanked all volunteers who have given the gift of time and talent, a list of those who have volunteered and donated was presented in the comments.

Kristin announced that the election ballots for 4 At Large Directors will be sent via email following the meeting. The meeting was then opened for new business and discussion, with no new business or discussion.

Pati Grady moved to adjourn the business meeting and was seconded by Deb Gansinger Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayra Richter
Finance & HR Manager