

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia & Greene Counties
Board of Directors Meeting
Agroforestry Resource Center, Acra
September 9, 2025

Present: Christie Ellis, Cathi Annese, Jonathan Farber, Paul Spoleti, Virgilia Tegiacchi, Elizabeth Chiong, Sherry True, Joyce Crawford, Joe Sniado, Amanda Pierro

Absent: Rebecca Pinder, Timothy Ooms, Angela Worth, Roberta Keller

Staff: Jackie Reese, Olivia Gordineer, Becky Polmateer, Angela Tallarico

Zoom: Lisa Gallina

Call to Order – Association Board President, Virgilia Tegiacchi, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Agenda – Joyce Crawford moved to accept the meeting agenda; Jonathan Farber seconded. Approved unanimously.

Board Meeting Minutes – Joe Sniado moved to approve the minutes; Jonathan Farber seconded. Approved unanimously.

Executive Committee – Virgilia Tegiacchi, Association President

- The committee met earlier on June 10 to review and discuss the 2026 Constitution of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties. A revised Constitution was provided at this meeting. Discussion. Virgilia Tegiacchi moved to accept the revised version; Jonathan Farber seconded. Approved unanimously.

Finance & Human Resources Committee Report – Elizabeth Chiong, Association Treasurer

- April and May Financials – Olivia Gordineer provided a report and reviewed highlights. Discussion. Elizabeth Chiong moved to accept the financials; Joe Sniado. Approved unanimously.
- 2026 budget: Olivia Gordineer anticipates submitting a draft budget to the FHR committee/board for the October meeting.
- County appropriations were requested by Lisa and Angela for level funding.
- Staffing Updates – Jackie Reese

Program Reports

- **Environment & Natural Resources** – Becky Polmateer
 - The ENR program is in good shape; but has some funding gaps from 2024.
 - The Suislaw Bridge Project - A 50-foot, steel frame hinged portable bridge will be installed to span the ford crossing. The structure will be a permanent demonstration of a temporary bridge used during logging operations.
 - Partnership between 4-H and ENR programs for Environmental Awareness Days.
- **4-H Youth Development & Families** – Becky Polmateer
 - CCE was involved in 3 fairs this summer: Greene County Fair, Columbia County Fair and the NY State Fair – all were successful. A grant from DOH allowed the Think Differently room to educate about hand washing with a water station at the Columbia County Fair.
 - Think Differently offered summer programs for the community at libraries and recreational sites. Becca Dawes, Think Differently educator, will be starting a 4-H club for neurodivergent youth.

- October 1 is re-enrollment for 4-H members.
- **Agriculture & Community Horticulture** – Lisa Gallina
 - The garden at the Hudson office has been flourishing with food collecting to the Columbia County Resource Kitchen. The surplus of vegetables – healthy and grown by local volunteers.
 - Master Gardener Volunteer class will be happening soon – please invite folks to sign up!
 - Agroforestry Field Day occurred in July.

Government Representative Reports

- **Greene County** – Sherry True
 - The Greene County Fair was a success – it is better and better each year! There is a new building to host equipment at the Greene County Fair which made a huge difference.
 - The Greene County budget is coming out soon.
 - New tourism building looks amazing.
- **Columbia County** – Tim Ooms (absent, no report)

Executive Director Report – Lisa Gallina - Highlights from her written report to the board.

- Various programs at Greene County Youth Fair and State Fair as well as producing over 7 major areas at the Columbia County Fair. Attended programs across the programmatic areas... Silvopasture, Growing Rice In NY, gardening programs, 4-H Think Differently and nutrition to name a few. Staff are engaged and connect well within our communities.
- The property survey of the Siuslaw Model Forest is complete.
- Continuous pursuit of new funding opportunities.

Adjourn – Virgilia Tegiacchi moved to adjourn the meeting; Joe Sniado seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jackie Reese, Recording Secretary