

Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County
Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda

May 26, 2026, 5:30 PM

Kosuga Barn, Education Center & 4-H Park, 300 Finchville Tpk, Otisville, NY

In Attendance: Amy Minutolo, Nancy Rider, Thomas Manza, Dave Goggins, Ed Estrada, Tiffany Chapman, Brooke Moore, Paul Ruszkiewicz, Kathi Nywening, Rachel Carr, Paul Wiley

Staff In Attendance: Maire Ullrich, Jill Van Aken, Cynthia Blomquist, Shayna Russo, Javier Acosta, Amanda Sostre

Absent: Jacky Guan, Diane Aboushi Saleh, Patricia Claiborne

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:37 PM by board president, Amy Minutolo; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Kathi Nywening

Review and Approval of Minutes for April 27, 2026

Motion by Kathi Nywening, seconded by Ed Estrada to approve the minutes from April 27, 2026. Vote taken – unanimous. Motion approved.

Impact Statement Program Presentation: Javier Acosta – Agricultural Outreach to Hispanic Farmers

- ❖ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2501 Grant
 - Aimed at socially disadvantaged farmers
 - Focusing on Hispanic farmers in Orange County
 - Representing 4-6% of the farming community
 - 5200 farms in Hudson Valley
 - Program offers:
 - Instructional classes, on-farm classrooms, loan assistance, marketing plans, and legal assistance. All of these are offered in English and Spanish.
 - Top Issues
 - Land Acquisitions and limited access to funding due to lack of Social Security number.
 - Successful Programs
 - Small Engine Repair
 - Organic Training/Certification – In English and Spanish

Program Report Review

- ❖ Agriculture – Maire Ullrich, Executive Director
 - Elias Bloom, new Agriculture Issue Leader will start 6/1/26
 - Will go on Farm Talk 6/3/26
- ❖ SNAP-Ed – Shayna Russo, Regional Project Manager
 - Technical Assistance and Direct Service paid through December 2026
 - Meghan Young has resigned and will work with the Department of Health
 - Creating Healthy Schools & Communities (CHCS) grant awarded 6/1/26 to Food, Nutrition, & Movement - \$320K/yr for 5 years
- ❖ Camp Update: Jill Van Aken, Development Officer
 - Over 75 children are registered
 - 26 one-week scholarships will be given out over four weeks.
 - Many registered campers will come all four weeks.
 - Camp starts 7/6/26
 - Camp update with more information will be sent out once available.

President's Report – Amy Minutolo, Board President

- ❖ Calf sale successful
- ❖ Chamber Breakfast successful
- ❖ If you are interested in receiving Maire's Monday Morning Memo emailed to you weekly, please let Maire know.
- ❖ Hoping new start time works out better for board members
- ❖ Encourage feedback and suggestions
- ❖ Brooke Moore has been appointed as interim board member to fill vacancy until the Annual Meeting. Will vote to elect for three-year term at that time.
 - Master Gardener since 2015
 - Has given her many different connections throughout county
 - Was on Program Advisory Committee
 - Retired non-profit Museum Director
 - Husband grew up on Dairy farm
- ❖ Andrea Nilon has been appointed as interim board member to fill vacancy until the Annual Meeting.
- ❖ Nominating Committee will be reviewing additional potential board candidates.

Motion by Dave Goggins, seconded by Ed Estrada to approve filling board member vacancies with Brook Moore and Andrea Nilon until the Annual Meeting. Vote taken – unanimous. Motion approved.

Executive Director's Report – Maire Ullrich, Executive Director

- ❖ Meeting with Harry Porr tomorrow
- ❖ June is Dairy Month
 - Will meet with Legislative session and bring ice cream with 4-H youth and Dairy Ambassador 6/2/26 at 3:30PM.

Report of Liaisons/Representatives

- ❖ Orange County Executive's Office – Paul Wiley
 - Solar Farm Project on Plains Road, Montgomery NY
 - Combines solar panels with farming operations
 - Tracking panels that will go with the sun
 - Farming 30-40 feet in between
 - Will try hay and vegetables first
 - Some crops are expected to do better because of the shade
 - Will monitor for five years
 - Camp LaGuardia – pedestrian bridge was made
 - Schunnemunk Trail – cleared and grubbed first 2 miles
 - Hoping to have paved by the end of the year
- ❖ Orange County Legislators – Paul Ruskiewicz
 - County Sales Tax – having sharing issue with 3.25%
 - Never got permission
 - Put request to state legislature

Committee Reports

- ❖ Personnel Committee – Kathi Nywening
 - Smoking Policy – amended to include the park
 - Sick Leave Policy – amended to include need of medical note after three days

Motion by Nancy Rider, seconded by Amy Minutolo to adopt the policy amendments to the Smoking and Sick Leave Policies. Vote taken – unanimous. Motion adopted.

- Two Park positions currently open
 - Ryan will need to reapply since role is transitioning from temporary to permanent
- ❖ Finance Committee – Nancy Rider
 - March Financials 2026
 - On track with 25% of budget used

- Accounts receivables high, waiting for Snap-Ed and county appropriations monies

Motion by Nancy Rider, seconded by Kathi Nywening to accept the March 2026 Financials as presented. Vote taken – unanimous. Motion accepted.

- Walden Savings Bank money market new offer at 2.75%
 - Savings account to Money Market

Motion by Ed Estrada, seconded by Thomas Manza to change the savings account to money market. Vote taken – unanimous. Motion approved.

- First Federal Savings – Certificate of Deposit due 6/3 will offer 4%
 - What is minimum amount we can put in with 4%?

Motion by Kathi Nywening, seconded by Thomas Manza to roll over the Certificate of Deposit with First Federal Savings at 4%. Vote taken – unanimous. Motion approved.

- Horse Leader Association has \$43K in Ameriprise that is losing money at this point.
 - It should be placed in an interest-bearing account.
 - Need to contact to inquire about opening second 4% Certificate of Deposit

Motion by Kathi Nywening, seconded by Ed Estrada to have Horse Leader association funds placed in a Certificate of Deposit at First Federal Savings if the 4% is offered. Vote taken – unanimous. Motion approved.

- RBT – almost completed audit
- Budget meeting will be 6/26/26
 - Need quorum for June Board meeting 6/22/26 to ensure budget approval
- Jeff Banks \$250K lines of credit are closed
- Camp Clover Designated Fund – Assemblywoman Paula Kay donated \$10K

Motion by Nancy Rider, seconded by Thomas Manza to move the \$10K donation to Camp Clover Designated Fund. Vote taken – unanimous. Motion approved.

- ❖ Fund Development Committee – Jill Van Aken, Development Officer
 - HV Gives raised \$2,150 → 2027 Camp Scholarships
 - Board member reels will continue to come out for camp
 - Working on updating communications
 - Donor Recognition event will be held June 18th at the 4-H Park
 - Will unveil Walden Savings Bank horse barn
 - Duck Derby tickets now available
- ❖ Park & Facilities Committee – Thomas Manza
 - Will be meeting Thursday at 4-H Park

- Heaters were installed in the Kosuga barn
- Delay in lighting → Need site plan amendment
 - Need to have Todd follow up with Town of Mt Hope engineer to determine if planning board approval is needed for new light placement at 4-H Park.
- Federal wetlands need to be re-delineated → Todd will work on this
 - We can ask for state exemption, if needed
 - Will need amendment for Storage barn, pending new wetlands delineation
- ❖ 4-H Farm & Family Fair Update – Jill Van Aken, Development Officer
 - Met last week
 - Partnering with Town of Mt Hope for movie night and Touch-A-Truck
 - Entertainment has been lined up
 - Lots of donations received for fair (ie. Lighting)
 - Facebook page has been created for the fair
 - Waiting for contract from Shamrock Ride company
 - Board of Directors will be selling watermelon and sweet corn.
 - Possibly donated
 - Fair update will be sent out to staff and board of directors.
 - Transportation grant update will be sent out next week.
- ❖ Strategic Planning Committee – Rachel Carr
 - Meeting Friday via zoom

Adjournment: Motion by Kathi Nywening, seconded by Amy Minutolo to adjourn the meeting at 6:55PM. Vote taken – unanimous. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Nywening, Board Secretary

Amanda Sostre, Recording Secretary