



August 5, 2025, 6:15 pm

Minutes

Attending: Beth, Amy, Christine, Fred, Judy, Shawn, Gerry, Scott, Nancy, Ariel

6:15 President (Amy led since John was absent) Call to Order

Approval/edits to agenda

Privilege to the floor (3 minutes per public comment)

Secretary (Shawn): Minutes from April Board meeting – Nancy forgot to include April minutes, so those will need to get approved in October

6:20 Treasurer (Christine):

May financials – attached.

*Motion to approve May 2025 month end statements*___ Fred_____

*Second*_____ Judy_____

*Votes*___ unanimous___ in favor_____

Update LNB users and check signers, remove Maggie and add Shelby

*Motion*_____ Beth_____

*Second*_____ Fred_____

*Votes*___ unanimous in favor_____

6:25 Executive Committee Update

John, Shawn, Ariel, Christine, Nancy and Katie met at 6:00 July 29, 2025 on zoom

Draft County Budget passed (Ariel moved, Shawn seconded, all approved)

April financials passed (Christine moved, John seconded, all approved)

Tentative price set for memberships \$50/individual, \$100 family, \$150 farm. Exact benefits to be determined.

Since these were the same prices from Beth Claypoole's time a while back, agreed to increase to \$60, \$120, \$175

6:35 People and Programs

Active People Healthy Wayne grant funding to be cut (roughly in half)

Staff facing layoffs have received verbal communication, letters will go out soon

Community Impact Grant from DEC, \$200K grant, being submitted imminently. Partnering with Hannick Hall.

Will apply for roughly \$40K from Urban and Community Gardens (DEC), due Sept 5

Asking for Nutrition Lead to be funded by county.

6:40 Facilities Committee – no action

Staff Program Report (Nancy, detailed reports below)

6:50 ED Report (Nancy) (below)

7:00 New business

7:05 Adjourn

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

Program reports

4-H

58 youth and 13 counselors participated in Camp Beechwood. 10 youth participated in Gardening and cooking camp. Fair pre-judging went well (**Thanks Gerry!**). Youth on Scotland trip and Teen Exchange all were returned home intact.

Master Gardeners

June/July 2025:

Master Gardener in-service trainings for June and July were on Ecological Gardening Practices from Amara Dunn-Silver, Biocontrol Specialist, Cornell Integrated Pest Management (June – 29 attended) and site visits to the 2025 Great Gardens Tour sites (July). We also had updates on Beech Leaf Disease as we are getting samples in for id.

More than 120 people attended our Great Gardens of Wayne County Tour on July 16th. The tour featured 5 gardens in the Lyons area.

Client Case Highlight:

Client Question (we also received an image): My white birch tree has a lot of bare branches. What can I do to help it?

Master Gardener Response: Eleanor, The limb loss could be due to a number of causes and unfortunately, the unsightly branches should stay on the tree until fall/winter, as NYS has an insect known as the Bronze Birch Borer. The smell of cut birch wood may attract egg-laying females that fly between May 1st to August 1st, and depending on the species of your tree could be quite detrimental. I am unable to tell from your photo if this is a European White Birch or American Paper Birch, and European Birch are highly susceptible to this insect, while American Birch are less so, but can still be damaged. (send us some close-up leaf images, if you need help identifying the tree species) The dying limbs might be a sign of damage from this insect so look for symptoms like yellowing and thinning leaves, dying upper branches, swollen ridges on the bark, and D-shaped exit holes.

Limb loss can also result from stress due to poor growing conditions, both species of birch like cool moist, acidic soil, and need watering when conditions are dry. They may also benefit from having the roots mulched with wood chips (3 - 4 inches deep) to about the drip edge on the canopy, this will help keep the soil moist and the mulch break down will provide nutrients over time. Be careful not to pile mulch up against the trunk, and not to pile too much mulch on the roots, as over time this can lead to other issues. Consider having your soil pH tested as birch preferer soil pH between 5.0-6.5 (acidic), and many of local soils are alkaline, we offer soil pH test (3\$) in the office. Growing birch trees in alkaline soil can cause nutrient deficiencies that can weaken/stress trees leaving them more susceptible to disease and insect problems. Also, the best prevention to damage from the Bronze Birch Borer is maintaining a healthy, vigorous tree.

You may want to contact a certified arborist to help care for your trees they can do an onsite evaluation of your growing conditions and scout for disease and insects and have access to equipment and treatments that homeowners do not. Do not use your city or zip code as this may limit the search too much, just use NY Region 8. Link to NYS Arborists Association provided.

We also provided a fact sheet on Bronze Birch Borer and a link to general care of birch trees.

Additional: Client brought in soil for pH testing – After testing we determined that soil pH amendments were needed and provided recommendations.

Upcoming Events:

Building on the Basics – October Garden Tasks: Saturday, October 11th from 9am to noon – This class will cover fall garden management, home composting, and building/filling a raised bed using the “lasagna” method. We’ll also have a “year in review” vegetable gardening Q&A session.

Regional training for new Master Gardener Volunteers: Fall 2025 at Cornell AgriTech beginning in September. Taking applications now. Contact Laurie VanNostrand for more information.

Agriculture

This month started with presenting at the Community Development Society Conference on how GIS can help to improve the development of community-based programming, and how maps can be used to generate support in county government for program funding. Some continued activities include the HFIP farm visits and scouting for sweet corn worm pests for the region. Some new concerns for the county are the reduction in staff at the NRCS and FSA office, which is leaving community members uninformed and confused about the EQIP program the NRCS offers. This has become a major project for our department, as we are becoming the resource used to help fill out the application due to the major reduction in staffing at these offices. Some notable events were the Farm Tour hosted by Farm Bureau and CCE, which is used to educate county government officials on the importance of agriculture in our region, and to inform them of the complexities of running a farm. Camp Beechwood also happened this month, and our department helped with educational programming and staffing for the camp. Our department is also working to digitize and streamline the Ag registration process for next year, allowing farmers to sign up online rather than filling out a paper copy and mailing it in. This should hopefully reduce our costs associated with the registration and make it easier for people to sign up.

Community Interaction:

- Question regarding the standards and permits required for selling raw milk.
- Help with the EQIP program process and communicating with NRCS and FSA.
- HFIP farm visit
- Pest Identification question with cherries.

Notable Events:

- Camp Beechwood
- CDS Conference
- Farm Tour with City Council
- NY Fruit Grower Tour with the Lake Ontario Fruit team
- Grant award for a soil demonstration to be used at County Fair and annual meeting.

SNAP-Ed Program Updates

- Program Reach: 338 direct nutrition education sessions were delivered, reaching 1,635 unduplicated participants across our counties. Over half of participants were youth in grades K–8.
- Program Highlights:

- High engagement in evidence-based series such as *Cooking Matters*, *CHFFF*, *Food Smarts*, and *Growing Healthy Kids*.
- Continued implementation of the *Stay Strong Stay Healthy* pilot.
- Ongoing *School Wellness* efforts, including new partnership agreements, cooking clubs, and wellness announcements.
- PSE Initiatives:
 - The *FVRx* program distributed over \$21,000 this quarter in fresh produce incentives, with a cumulative \$136,000+ distributed and an 85% redemption rate.
 - The *Fresh Connect* pilot showed promising results with reduced food insecurity and improved self-reported health status.
- Indirect Reach: Nearly 20,000 individuals were reached through community events, printed materials, and media, including a radio interview with an estimated audience of 16,000.

ED Report

On July 7, I presented at the Community Development Society Conference in Geneva. I discussed how the SOAR program went, and I had some good conversations with extension leaders from other states. I left feeling re-energized to make sure CCE Wayne continues to do the broader work of building communities, alongside our topic-based work in agriculture, gardening, youth/4-H, and nutrition and health. The grants I've been applying for (gardening work and pedestrian safety) fit into this theme, and I'm hopeful that at least some of these will be successful.

Meanwhile, we are all together on the good work. Every single staff member spent at least 1 day at Camp Beechwood. Every staff member will spend at least some time at Fair, sharing about the work we do. We have raffles and baskets and giveaways to share goodwill about CCE Wayne (not to mention the ice cream!).

The garden in Clyde, with Rachel Semmel at the helm (a temporary position), is off to a great start, with library, art, nutrition, and agricultural events. I'm grateful for that grant work, which will also support some of Josh and Camille's positions for August and September.

Shelby has cooked up (pun intended) a number of ideas for program revenues for nutrition and health, and I hope to have more specific updates about those by our October meeting. For example, we can work with the office of aging, or give safe food service courses. Taylor can teach yoga classes, and Adam and Mikayla hope to continue with classes like *Stay Strong*, *Stay Healthy*. We're exploring and pursuing and imagining – and soon, implementing.

Lastly, I just want you all to know that I feel optimistic. We're having some good conversations – with funders, with potential partners for grants, with other organizations in similar situations. I like to think that the growth in relationships will outlast the funding crisis that led to this moment.