



March 10, 2026
Board Meeting Minutes

6:15 President (John): Call to Order

Attendance: John, Ken, Peter, Kate, Shawn, Judy, Steve, Gerald, Nancy, Katie Whitney

Absent: Betty, Ariel, Shane

Approval/edits to agenda - none

Privilege to the floor (3 minutes per public comment) - none

Secretary (Shawn): Minutes from January Board meeting (separate attachment)

Motion to approve January minutes Peter

Second Gerald

Votes All

6:20 Facilities update (Nancy)

Insulation quotes and ice damming

Motion to approve Ken *quote for insulation work* for AB insulation over copier room/bathrooms

Second Shawn

Votes All

6:30 Treasurer : reports on November

Motion to approve November financial reports Gerald

Second Judy

Votes All

Motion for Executive Committee to have ability to approve December and year-end financial reports between this meeting and the April 2026 meeting. Gary/Steve

Second Shawn

Votes All

Motion to approve re-investing CD's with LNB for 6 month at 3.6% Judy

Second Shawn

Votes All

End of year transfer: \$4883.55 (account 10525) from Beechwood Camp, to be put back toward camp; \$3233.74 (account 10114) from Master Gardeners to be put back toward MG programming; \$1439.26 (account 10561) from Dairy Booth to go into Dairy Booth Scholarships; \$8917.14 (account 10566) from After-school program to go toward after-school program expenses;

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\$3368.05 ((account 10100) from ag programming to back toward ag programs; a debt of \$99.73 (account 31212) from the Horse program to be taken from the Horse fund; and a debt of \$1304.04 (account 31214) from Teen exchange expenditures to be taken from teen exchange funds.

Motion: Peter.

Second: Ken

Votes: all.

Facilities committee met on March 3 at 6:00 on zoom to discuss insulation bids. Ken, Judy, and Gerry were present. Questions were sent to all bidders to help clarify details. It was decided that we did not yet have sufficient information to proceed with accepting any bids yet.

Finance committee met in person at Tom Wahl's at noon on March 9 to discuss committee structure and responsibilities. The committee requested that Katie Whitney be assigned as staff liaison to the Board Treasurer, so the finance chair (Steve Hasseler) can officially discuss reports with her prior to meetings.

Motion to assign Katie Whitney as staff liaison to the Board Treasurer. _____ Gerald _____

Second _____ Shawn _____

Votes _____ All _____

6:45 People and Programs

4-H Ag and Livestock Educator Kailey Kuhn to begin early April

Josh promoted to Subject Educator II to better fit responsibilities (\$2484 increase for this year)

Promotions in progress for Taylor and Camille to SE II to match their responsibilities and years of experience. (~\$2000 increase for this year)

Renewal of Master Forest Owner agreement with Yates (\$550)

(see remarks in ED report about SNAP-Ed)

Committee Meeting minutes: met Feb 24, 2026 on zoom. Shawn, Betty, and Kate attended. Upcoming staff needs in 4-H, gardening, nature education, and agriculture were discussed. Committee recommended moving forward with a 4-H nature educator/gardener position, to help with school gardens. NG will work toward county and grant funding for this.

6:50 Staff Program Reports (Nancy, notes below)

6:55 ED Report (Nancy, State of Association)

Rescheduling April meeting to the 28th. *Motion _____ Judy _____*

Second _____ Shawn _____

Votes _____ All _____

7:10 Organizational Items

7:20 Board President (John) –

7:30 New business – Betty added to People and Programs Committee. Motion: Judy, 2nd: Shawn. Votes: all.

7:35 Adjourn – Motion: Steve, 2nd: Peter, Votes – all.

Program reports

Master Gardeners

33 Master Gardeners attended our February program meeting and in-service refresher training on beneficial insects in preparation for our upcoming 2026 Pollinator and Beneficial Insects Project for public education that we are implementing to increase public awareness on their importance and steps people can take to support them.

Participants in our 2026 Seed 2 Supper course completed their first session, Vegetable Garden Planning, on Saturday, Feb. 21st. We began with participants sharing about the vegetables they like to eat and want to grow in their gardens.

During class, participants learned that the job of a gardener is to give plants the appropriate location that provides sunlight, water, air and soil nutrients the plants need to thrive and to locate it where it is convenient. They also took part in a plant footprint activity that demonstrated the importance of understanding the mature size of vegetable plants and how making a planting plan and garden map before putting plants and seeds in the ground would benefit them. Other topics covered were timing of planting, succession planting, introduction to soil, soil improvement and retaining good soil structure to support plant growth.

They also left with homework - to create a rough draft of their garden map to build on during the next session!

Our services:

Garden, Lawn, and Home Landscape Hotline: Master Gardeners will be back in the office on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am to noon beginning Friday, April 3rd. Prior to that date, our Master Gardeners will come in as needed to complete soil pH testing and look at plant and insect samples and do respond to questions left on our voicemail (315) 331-8415 Ext. 107 or emailed to us at mgwayne@cornell.edu throughout the year.

Horticultural Presentations: If Wayne County groups are interested in receiving information on our available topics or would like to schedule a presentation, they should contact us at: mgwaynepres@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events:

Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale - Saturday, May 9th 8:30-11:00am.

CCE Wayne Master Gardener's Native Plants, Pollinators and Beneficial Insects Project – Saturday, June 13th from 9 am to 12:30 pm (may run just a bit over). This class is for people who want to learn about pollinators and other beneficial insects and how to support them with native plant habitats. We expect to have native plants available and have some great speakers lined up for this event! Watch for registration details in future newsletters. Class size will be limited.

Great Gardens of Wayne County Tour – Wednesday, July 15th from 4 pm to 8 pm. Our 2026 tour will feature gardens in the Macedon area.

Agriculture

- Attended Farm to School Conference (grant funded through CCE Ontario)
- Working on a grant to fund the Spanish pesticide course through NYS workforce development.
- The English pesticide training is coming up in late March.
- GAP presentations will be given in March by the fruit and veg team.
- Josh attended the corn and soybean congresses, the winter fruit school, and will be attending the BEV conference and Farm to school food summit (why he is not here)
- Josh passed the pesticide exam and is a certified applicator
- Josh will be taking a soil health course offered by Cornell
- Ag registration has gone smoothly and the online portal has worked pretty well.
- Future outlooks include: Learning garden and greenhouse prep, ag committee 2026 (hoping that our new livestock educator can be a part of this), and a revamped IPM workshop series without the funding focusing on management practices like crop rotation, target pesticide application, and cover cropping

4-H Activities and Events

Public Presentations: We had 42 kids sign up for Public Presentations. We did it over 4 days from kids ages 5-18. We recorded two of the good presentations and have them posted as learning tools for the younger kids. We have selected some to represent Wayne County at the District Public Presentations on April 11, 2026.

Staff updates: Kailey Kuhn starts working on April 2 and we are working with Cornell to get an intern to help out with Fair and Camps, we have one candidate that looks very promising and this is paid for by Cornell so no out of pocket for 4-H. Camille attended Shooting Sports coordinator training in February and is working with the volunteers and local gun clubs to find a good indoor range to do an MOU with so we can build the program.

Teen Exchange Program: Spaghetti Dinner was held on February 7th, it was cold and snowy but we made \$1850 on ticket sales and \$250 at the bake sale. Tickets have been reserved and 10 youth and 2 adults will fly to Texas from July 21-28, 2026. We still have a few fundraisers going on to help the kids meet their goals!

After School Programing: We are doing after school for Red Creek, Sodus Middle and Elementary school and Clyde-Savannah. We are teaching agricultural lessons to kids each week and reaching about 250 kids in total. This week the kids were making butter as well as Lillie Spoon took her Flemish Giants to Red Creek to show the kids how to properly show and care for rabbits.

Upcoming:

- March 7th- District Horse Bowl/ Dairy Bowl/Livestock Skillathon/Hippology – Wayne County has 12 youth participating in these contests!
 - March 10- Teen Activity Night

- March 12 – Career and Job Fair Pal-Mac High School
 - March 14: 10 and under Activity Day 12-2pm
- March 25: Rural Resource Fair – Albany Melissa taking Camp Counselors

Nutrition and Health

Health and Wellness Program Report:

- Budget for carryover is being completed, due March 13th to be looked over by OTDA and FNS for approval.
- Programming continues for SNAP-Ed until Sept 30th, 2026
- SNAP educators are starting to use a new curriculum from Leah's Pantry called Body Connection that aims to break the sedentary cycle, wire the nervous system for movement, and support motivation for healthy habits.

Future planning for March/April:

- Family healthy eating with a "picky eater" class
- Financial literacy for food purchases for healthy eating
- Programming on the changes to the dietary guidelines
- Plans for Adam to be trained in SSSH (Stay Strong Stay Healthy) level 2

ED Report

As children, we probably all played some version of the game "Chicken" – mutually daring each other to keep doing something, hopefully only mildly dangerous, until one or the other "chickens out" and stops. The child who keeps going longer wins, whether that was from bravery or foolhardiness or simply being more competitive.

Over the last year, the potential loss of SNAP-Ed funding has loomed over CCE Wayne continually. At first, it appeared the funding had been instantaneously pulled, and then the Big Bill ultimately gave SNAP-Ed funding until the end of September 2025. Somehow, however (I think because the state already had some of the federal money in hand?), "leftover" funding has continued to be available, first through the end of 2025, and now until September 2026.

Through this uncertainty, CCE associations have made varying decisions based on their risk tolerance. Some associations laid off nutrition educators in summer 2025 or at the end of September. Some employees, not wanting to weather the uncertainty, have changed jobs or retired. Some associations kept nutrition educators through the end of 2025 and let them go at year end. Over the last year, we made one layoff and saw two voluntary job changes (and pulled one staff member from finance to nutrition), taking our SNAP-Ed staff from six to four. Because of our strong financial reserves, we have (along with Monroe County, part of our larger SNAP-Ed Northern Finger Lakes Team) been able to keep a nutrition program in place continuously, although the uncertainty through the process – the game of chicken - certainly took a toll on all of us in the office.

Two other counties in our region laid off SNAP-Ed educators entirely. All CCE offices, including ours, will see increases this year in unemployment insurance as a result. After a pause last summer during the worst of the uncertainty, we have resumed the FVRx (Fruit and Vegetable Prescription) program. The ripples of all the federal nutrition funding uncertainty and cuts continue to spread.

Financially, we have been coping with this uncertainty in several ways. We have been applying for grants, were awarded \$15K from Excellus Foundation (supporting Stay Strong, Stay Healthy), and were awarded an emergency relief fund of \$75K from Greater Rochester Health Foundation (which needs to be returned if we don't need it). Our recent grant with the Village of Newark for increased walkability funds one of our health positions for the majority of 2026. And we have secured increased county funding, which now supports Shelby's position as Nutrition Lead.

Because of the state reserves for SNAP-Ed and our position as grant leads, the Northern Finger Lakes SNAP-Ed program is not able to use nearly \$300K in available funds – funds that would have paid salaries for staff throughout the region who are no longer with CCE. This money would have to be used by the end of September, and it must be used on nutrition programming and support.

Some of this money can be used for building maintenance (such as our insulation project, of which roughly a third can be covered by SNAP-Ed). Some of this money can be for materials, such as kitchen appliances for nutrition classes. But some of it cannot be used, because it doesn't make sense to hire and train staff to fill "lame duck" temporary positions, and even if we did hire them, we'd have to let folks go at the end of September, further increasing our unemployment liability. Meanwhile, NY state is considering stepping up to fund nutrition education programming, because it is a good investment in public health; as of this writing, I can't venture to guess if that will pass with the state budget.

Over the coming months, my first priority is supporting the staff and programs we have, all of which benefit Wayne County residents in a wide array of ways. I'll do my best to secure and diversify our funding sources, while no longer being able to rely on the security of the 5-year, renewable SNAP-Ed grants we were accustomed to. I hope to re-grow our staff in a sustainable way, and along with that our programs. I look forward to your input on this process and progress, so we can play financial chicken as safely as possible.