



June 9, 2026
Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members present: Steve, Ken, Shawn, Peter, Betty, Judy, Ariel, Kate, John

Nonmembers present: Nancy, Tim

Board Members absent: Shane, Gerry

6:15 President (John): Call to Order

Approval/edits to agenda

Privilege to the floor (3 minutes per public comment)

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

Motion to approve April minutes Steve

Second Shawn

Votes All (Ken abstain)

6:20 Facilities update (Nancy)

Insulation in mechanical space over the bathrooms was completed. Space over Josh's office and mine that I thought was to be covered was not (and was not in written estimate). AB will return Thursday June 11 to discuss remaining projects and clarify existing estimates.

2 quotes are in for parking lot sealing. (Bates \$5700, Webb \$8800) Need one more quote. Ask Shuttleworth enterprises, LLC.

Motion to empower Buildings and Grounds Committee and Executive Committee to decide on parking lot bid and next phase of attic insulation work. Steve

Second Peter

Votes all

6:30 Treasurer

February and March 2026 financial statements.

Motion to approve February and March 2026 financials Steve

Second Judy

Votes all

Discuss FDIC limits and possible action – save for August board meeting when 2025 audit is complete. Allocate grant in budget.

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.

Correction to 2025 end-of-year – Greenhouse allocation to grant.

Motion to approve transfer of \$2600 from Learning garden Guido/Palma deferred account to Building Funds. This corrects the previous allocation which was all from building funds._

Motion Ken

Second Shawn

Votes all

Motion to allow travel meal reimbursement by set per diem rate in lieu of receipts for meals. This simplifies reimbursement for staff who may not always be traveling with tax exempt forms. Draft procedure attached. Peter

Second Ariel

Votes all

Financial notes: Payroll will look high in June due to promotions finally coming through for two staff, both with the pay bump retroactive to April 1. Meadow seed/soil mix plus delivery \$2000. Lots of purchasing for 4-H and Active People Healthy Wayne due to end of school year supplies (from grant) and gun safe for shooting sports (from donations). Josh got a hardcore weedwhacker for trail work (~\$500). Some travel expense(to Missouri) for Adam for next level training for Stay Strong, Stay Healthy (covered by SNAP-Ed). 4-H income for camp enrollment and final 4-H enrollment.

Yates County has been training one of their staff in day-to-day finance, and due to budget constraints will no longer be outsourcing financial management to us.

Grant awarded: Creating Healthy Schools and Communities, with Wayne CAP (continued version of Active People, Healthy Wayne). Funds 50% of Amy B position, 5% of Melissa's time, a bit of facilities maintenance time, and some other expenses, and 3/8 (37.5%) of one of our nutrition educator salaries. (\$70K annually)

Grants not awarded: Greater Rochester Health Foundation (no CCE's awarded). Farmer's Market Resiliency.

Contract still not received for final SNAP-Ed money, lumbering its way through process.

Waiting to hear: Rochester Area Community Foundation, Ag workforce development grant.

Grant reports submitted: Mother Cabrini (2023 grant) and Excellus.

6:45 People and Programs

Consider changing Natasha's role to Development (from Finance assistant) We will discuss in people and programs committee and bring back to full board in August.

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

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

7:00 Board President (John) –

7:05 New business

7:10 Adjourn

Program reports

Master Gardeners

April/May 2026:

28 Master Gardeners attended our April program planning meeting and in-service training for updates on managing landscapes for ticks and mosquitoes. These updates give them the most current information to use when addressing our client questions. 31 attended our May meeting and learned about common trees of importance in our area and impacts influencing their decline.

We had another successful plant sale even though this spring was a challenging one. Plants for the sale are provided by our Master Gardeners and from local garden center donations. Funds from the sale go toward MGV Program operating expenses related to our educational mission here in Wayne County.

Plant Sale Highlight:

We included a “Mother’s Day” decorative planter section in our plant sale this year and had an over 100 planted containers donated by our Master Gardeners. Due to their generosity, 30 containers were donated to the Newark Manor Nursing Home residents. Nursing home staff was very appreciative and excited to distribute them.

Client case Highlight:

During our plant sale one of our Master Gardeners noticed a small child with a tick attached to her neck. The child was with her aunt for the weekend and the aunt was very upset at the thought of the tick being attached to her niece. We suggested urgent care, but the aunt was reluctant and wanted us to remove it right away. We explained that due to liability, we could not remove the tick but could give her information and tick removal tools so she could do so. We provided her with the infographic on tick removal and the removal tool from the Cornell IPM – Don’t get ticked NY tick removal kit. After calming the aunt so she could review instructions, she was able to properly remove the tick. We also suggested she take the tick with her and follow up with the child’s mother and physician in case they wanted to send it in for testing. The aunt was very grateful and now has the confidence and knowledge to remove ticks safely should there be another occurrence. The little girl was brave during the ordeal.

Our services:

Garden, Lawn, and Home Landscape Hotline: Master Gardeners are in the office on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am to noon and respond to questions left on our voicemail (315) 331-8415 Ext. 107 or emailed to us at mgwayne@cornell.edu all 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:

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). Registration \$25.00 – spots are limited and will be filled on a first paid basis. This class is for people who want to learn about pollinators and other beneficial insects and how to support them with native plant habitats. The registration fee includes 3 one quart native plants.

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. Tickets are 10.00 each and will be for sale beginning June 15th.

Agriculture

May slowed down for the department coming off a very busy March and April. We started getting the learning garden prepped for the summer, as well as maintenance on the trail and mulching for the new wildflower area. We have been working on creating some workshops for fall/winter which will include a beginners IPM series and a meet and greet for farmers to get to know the local food hub Headwater. The IPM series will help farmers with weed and pest identification and ecological management techniques to help with pest pressure. We helped out the LOF team with their mating disruption experiment and took some calls focused on financial help with beginning a new farm.

Community interactions:

- Beginning farm looking to start a custard shop
- A couple of people interested in soil samples
- Someone looking for beginning information on starting an equine business.
- Helping a farmer with measurements for their farm so they can accept SNAP benefits at the farmer's market.

Notable events:

- Mulching for wildflower area
- Setting up Headwater workshop in the late summer/fall
- Creating a beginners IPM program for fall/winter.
- Planting and irrigation in the learning garden
- Helping the LOF team with mating disruption experiment
- Weed sample collecting
- Sweet Corn Pest scouting set-up at G&S Orchards

4-H Activities and Events

Grant Applications/Awards:

Pollinator House Project- 4-H and MGs applied for the Chrysalis Fund mini-grant to build a pollinator house at Sodus State Park along with signage for Learning Garden, Trail and meadow. Applied May 2026 will know in September if granted

4-H Activities and Events

Camps: We are working on planning and scheduling for camps. Camille is working hard getting briefers this year and we have some good ones! Gardening and Cooking Camp is full, and Camp Beechwood is 85% full! We have received some scholarships for youth and have had supplies donated.

Wayne County Fair: Kailey is working hard on getting judges and prizes for fair. LAP youth are working hard on getting buyers and starting to turn in paperwork. Sponsorship letters will be going out this month to get sponsors for awards- if you know anyone who wants to sponsor an award, please let us know. We need judges for events so if you are interested, reach out to us.

Teen Exchange Program: The Pancake Breakfast was a great success we made \$1263 on ticket sales and \$177 at the bake sale. Plane tickets will be purchased this week! Youth are very excited and we have received a draft itinerary packed full of fun and cultural activities.

Capital Days: We had three delegates attend the 91st Annual Capital Days event in Albany. Abby Wells, Rachel Smith and Leeann Peeso attended the three-day event in Albany where they learned about government, court systems, governmental jobs, architecture, and met with Senator Helming and Assemblyman Maketelow. These three young ladies and our chaperone Kate Smith were amazing representatives of Wayne County and showcased our program well. All three of youth and part of chaperone registration was covered by Tractor Supply Paper Clover campaign funds.

Upcoming:

- June 13& 20th – 4-H Sewing Workshops
 - Fair entry is open
 - June 23rd – Pre-Fair Meeting
- June 27th – Pre-Judging Prep-Session
 - July 13-17 Camp Beechwood
 - July 21-28 Teen Exchange Travel
- July 27-31 Gardening and Cooking Camp
 - August 4th – Pre-judging Night
 - Aug 10-16 Wayne County Fair

Nutrition and Health

In May, the nutrition team finished up another Stay Strong Stay Healthy Series with 5 participants completing. 3 participants feel more confident than before getting out of their car and walking up the stairs. 4 out of the 5 do more physical activities, such as gardening, cleaning, etc., and more strength training now than before the series.

Our team also started a Body Connection series in the office and a youth Body Connection at the Lyons library. Body Connection is a mindful movement curriculum developed by Leah's Pantry to integrate physical activity with nutrition education, helping adults and children build healthy habits through short, accessible movement lessons. We were also able to reconnect with Emmanuel Church to provide nutrition education. Attend the Lyons family night and provide picky eating resources at the Get Ready to Grow Event at the Newark Hospital.

ED Report

Income stream diversity is an issue for all nonprofit organizations, always, but especially now. Cooperative Extension is lucky in the sense that we have a wide array of funding streams: federal, state, and county government support, memberships and enrollments (4-

H, agriculture), fundraisers (pancake breakfast, plant sale, livestock auction), and grants. In our case, we also have a small amount of investment income.

What's wonderful about having so many sources of funding is of course that we have a lot of resiliency against loss of any single funding stream. What's rough about having so many sources of funding is that in any given year, the likelihood is high that one funding stream will be threatened.

The loss of federal funding for the SNAP-Ed program (and many other programs!) is particularly painful, and the full effect of this loss will hit us in 2027's budget. Nutrition and health programming are really important (and cost-effective!) for Wayne County residents, and I hope we can find new ways to support that work.

Of course, with so many organizations losing funding in this economy, their staff and directors are also writing grants – the competition is fierce. Further, CCE can be perceived as not needing the money as badly, because our association with Cornell makes people think we are rich from the Cornell endowment. I'm committed to continuing to write better and more grants, and to fostering other staff in developing their own grant writing skills.

The weight of this work – the concerns, fears, anxieties, planning, deadlines – have felt heavy many times in recent months. I am grateful for the board's continued support and patience as we forge through this moment. We have an extremely strong staff right now, and I'm optimistic that our skills and contributions will be rewarded with funding. We are in a moment where our strengths - research-based information and practical skills - are increasingly valuable and needed.