Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Oneida County

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September 24, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 24, 2026
Time: 6:00PM
Location: Vescio's Franklin Hotel, North James Street, Rome, NY 13440

	Count	Board Member	Position	Term	Expiration
	1	Anna Weeks	President - STEM / Community Connections	2	12/31/2027
	2	Rosanne Loparco	Vice President / Master Gardener	1	12/31/2026
	3	Hollie Wolanski	Secretary – 4H / Dog Obedience / Education	2	12/31/2027
	4	Dick Presky	Treasurer / Insurance	1	12/31/2026
X	5	John Brouillette	At-Large / Agriculture	1	12/31/2027
	6	Kathryn Festine	At-Large / Legal	1	12/31/2027
X	7	Torie Hairston	At-Large Social Work / Education	1	12/31/2028
	8	Mary Kline	At-Large / Education / BOCES	1	12/31/2026
X	9	Jessica Nelson	At-Large / Agriculture / Farm / Education	1	12/31/2028
	10	Howard Regner	At-Large Agriculture / Farm / Education	2	12/31/2028
	11	Paul Sears	At-Large / Master Gardener / STEM	1	12/31/2026
	12	Debbie Spinella	At-Large Agriculture / Education	2	12/31/2027
X	Appointed	George Joseph	Legislative Representative	N/A	N/A
X	Appointed	Paul O'Connor	State Extension Specialist	N/A	N/A

Staff/Community Attendance

1	Mary Beth McEwen	Executive Director	CCE Oneida County
2	Donna Gatto	Finance	CCE Oneida County
3	Terri Harrison	Office Manager	CCE Oneida County
4	Lori North	Director of Operations	CCE Oneida County
5	Brittany Amore	Energy Hub Co-Leader	CCE Oneida County
6	Dan Sharfarz	Energy Hub Co-Leader	CCE Oneida County
7	Marina Bridgham	Screentime Educator	CCE Oneida County
8	Casey Winter	Screentime Educator	CCE Oneida County

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2026 Board Schedule

Date		Description
January	22	Reorganization Board Meeting
February	26	Committee Meetings / Board Orientation, 5:30PM food and 6:00PM, General Overview of Programs
March	26	Board Meeting, 6:00PM
April	23	Committee Meetings, HR 5-6:00PM, Program 6-7:00PM
May	21	Board Meeting, 6:00PM
June	25	Board Meeting – Audit Presentation, Dermody, Burke & Brown 6:00PM
July	30	Committee – Boonville Fair Legislative BBQ
August		No Meeting Scheduled
September	24	Board Meeting – Vescio's Franklin Hotel
October	22	Annual Meeting – Valentino's Banquet Hall, New Hartford
November	19	Board Meeting
December		No Meeting Scheduled

Call to Order: 6:01PM

Pledge of Allegiance:

Staff Presentations:

- Energy Department Overview, Brittany Amore and Dan Sharfarz presented
- Screentime Program Overview, Marina Bridgham and Casey Winter

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve June 25, 2026 Board meeting minutes.

Vote:

Motioned by:	Dick Presky
Seconded by:	Paul Sears
Discussion:	No discussion
Motion Carried:	Unanimous

Finance: Donna Gatto

- Review 2026 2nd Quarter financials – Donna Gatto

Motion to accept the CCE Oneida County 2026 2nd quarter financials pending Cornell Cooperative Extension Administration year-end review.

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Vote:

Motioned by:	Katherine Festine
Seconded by:	Rosanne Loparco
Discussion:	No discussion
Motion Carried:	Unanimous

Board President Report:

N/A

New Business:

- Adirondack Bank – Arrow Bank

  Motion to amend Banking relationship from Adirondack Bank to Arrow Bank. Doug Bartell will present at the November Board of Directors meeting.

  Vote:

Motioned by:	Dick Presky
Seconded by:	Paul Sears
Discussion:	No discussion
Motion Carried:	Unanimous

- Herb Garden Update – Paul Sears

Human Resources

- Policy Review: #405 Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace

  Motion to approve Policy #405: Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace

  Vote:

Motioned by:	Katherine Festine
Seconded by:	Dick Presky
Discussion:	Staff members sign an acknowledgement of receipt annually for the entire policy manual
Motion Carried:	Unanimous

Executive Director's Report:

- Adirondack Bank - $5.000.00 - Adirondack Bank chose CCE Oneida County as an Oneida County nonprofit to award $5,000.00. The funding is unrestricted.

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- THRIVE Grant - $60,000.00 Sponsored by NY Ag & Markets Food through State 4H – this grant focuses on experiential learning for youth 8th – 11th grade. Through field trips and group discussions and projects, youth will learn about the food system from beginning to end.
- Farmer's Market Resiliency Grant $199,007.53 – This funding will help promote the Oneida County Public Market and create an online delivery system, giving consumers more access to local foods and connecting more consumers to local producers.
- Farm To School $149,843.00 - This funding will help schools procure NY grown foods with the ultimate goal of helping schools purchase and serve a minimum of 30% NY products.
- Annual Meeting October 22, 2026, 6PM Please register online.
- Mohawk Valley Gives – Lori
    - We participated in Mohawk Valley Gives this year & raised more money than last year. We focused on raising money for the gardens & trail.
- Grants in Process:
    - Ag & Food Systems Workforce Development: Submitted in April. Awards should be announced at the end of September.
    - Dairy Promotion submitted September 18, 2026
    - Youth Sports and Education Opportunity – Oneida County & The Community Foundation, including hiking and fishing
    - Youth Bureau Youth Development Fund
    - Childcare Sub Pool, pulled the RFP – it may be reissued
- Dick Presky is receiving an award from The Genesis Group, The Joseph R. Carucci Legacy Award. Joe Carucci was the Founder of the Genesis Group and a strong Community Leader. This award is given to those who exemplify Joe's dedication and commitment.
- Donna Gatto spoke about the Cornell Companion Dog Therapy Program. Wynn Hospital requested volunteers to go into the hospital through the program. This is exciting and really highlights the importance and popularity of the program. The Cornell Companions are going into schools, universities and senior living areas.

ASSOCIATION

- Constitution – CCE Administration creates a template for Associations to use for the constitution. It cannot be modified and must be voted on and adopted.

Motion to accept the template Constitution for Cornell Cooperative Extension Association with a Directly Elected Board of Directors and have it voted on at the 2026 annual meeting.

Vote:

Motioned by:	Katherine Festine
Seconded by:	Dick Presky
Discussion:	No discussion
Motion Carried:	Unanimous

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Executive Session: Required – Personnel

Motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:52PM

Vote:

Motioned by:	Howard Regner
Seconded by:	Paul Sears
Discussion:	No discussion
Motion Carried:	Unanimous

Exit Executive Session: Required – Personnel

Motion to exit executive session at 8:06PM

Vote:

Motioned by:	Debbie Spinella
Seconded by:	Howard Regner
Discussion:	No discussion
Motion Carried:	Unanimous

Adjourn: 8:07PM

Motion to Adjourn

Vote:

Motioned by:	Dick Presky
Seconded by:	Paul Sears
Discussion:	Unanimous
Motion Carried:	No discussion

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