

CT Food Policy Council  
February 11, 2010

**Members in Attendance:** Linda Drake, Jean King, Dennis King, Martha Page, Gloria McAdam, Rick Macsuga, Jiff Martin, Ellen Sloan, John Frassinelli, Therese Dandeneau, Michael Keilty

- I. The minutes of the last meeting were approved with the requested changes.
- II. Additions to agenda: None
- III. **Old Business and updates:** Rick clarified the concern as to whether or not there will be a shed at the Regional Market.
  - Rick Macsuga advised that there was no new information concerning funding that he could share. The PSA is at OPM.
  - Rick also received additional information on the Working Lands Alliance conference on March 27. The CFPC will sponsor \$2,000 and could send as many as 6 people.
  - Michael Keilty updated the CFPC on the upcoming Fall Farmers Collaboration Conference. He described the types of partners he was looking for and the unique diversity among the members of the planning committee. He received several suggestions as to where the conference could be held.
  - The Council, led by Michael, commented on the Temple Grandin conference at Old Sturbridge Village and the work she has done in bringing autism to the forefront in education. He commented on the fact that Faculty from across the state will be attending the conference. He also noted the 2-8-10 article in the New York Times.
  - Rick commented on the Roses for Autism, a year round project in which 6 individuals with Autism work in what is considered to be the largest glass Greenhouse in the world in Guilford.
  - Linda Drake gave a membership update.
  - Mark Daree and Bruce Sherman will be at the March meeting to address the Poultry Processing issue. There was a request to have someone from Public Health attend the April meeting also. CFPC has no position on the issue.

- There was a conversation around legislation to allow the federal exemption for poultry processing. Connecticut does not currently recognize the current federal exemptions. Rick gave an example of what's currently being done in Kentucky.
- Linda just advised that there was an update to the letter to the Governor with input from other members of the Council.

#### **IV. New Business**

- There is no guarantee of funding for the CFPC via the Community Grant stimulus monies. John Frassinelli advised that they are still waiting for feedback on the Grant and provided a briefing on the process for the Council.
- There was discussion around the Governor's budget in terms of funding for the CFPC.
- There were concerns expressed on the Expedited Food Stamps program. It's not a new issue but appears to have worsened.
- Jiff Martin provided updates on the Working Lands Alliance Conference, an all day event. Provided registration cards along with updates on the potential keynote speaker and the goal of the conference in terms of Farmland Preservation. Jiff thanked the CFPC for its gracious co-sponsorship.
- Jiff also update the group on some of the initiatives of the WLA including a letter to the Governor concerning state held land and information on the Green Jobs legislation.
- Jiff also spoke on a pending bill call an Act Concerning Farms, Food, and Jobs which may adopt the federal exemption on poultry processing. Pickle Bill, a farm bureau initiative concerning acidified foods.
- Jiff updated the CFPC on making it easier for schools that have a garden allowing them to serve these foods in the schools kitchen. This Act would also introduce the concept of updating the definition on Farmers Markets, to make it possible for a one day Farmers Market.
- Ellen Sloan and Rick provided clarification and updates on school and master gardens in terms of soil testing and serving the foods grown.
- Jiff updated the group on the Hartford Gardens Project (Share Farming) and the various sites and potential sites. Half the participants are low income. Most of the produce goes to organizational shares like the North End Organization and Senior Organizations. There is a plan to inquire of the city as to whether or not there is a particular set of produce that they would wanted produced

- Dennis King updated the Council on the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Project and addressed various concerns on freight lines and ports in terms of product coming and leaving the state. He also commented on the challenges and clearance on utilizing some of the old rail lines across the eastern portion of the state many of which are now rail to trail. He also gave feedback on Transit Oriented Development inquires.
- There was a great turnout at the Farmers Market meeting where Rick and John gave a presentation on the addition fruit and vegetable vouchers given to WIC participants and some of the challenges both the farmers and the clients are faced with.
- Gloria McAdam informed the Council on the Comprehensive Hunger Study , which is conducted every four years, advising that one out of eight Americans depend on private charities, up from the one out of ten. Gloria also gave info on the Walk for Hunger which is being conducted at various times across the state.
- Ellen Sloan updated the group on the Farmers to Kitchen to Market Conference on May 10 and the new registration requirements under the Federal Bio Terrorism regulation which can be done on line.

Next meeting is Thursday, March 11, 1 – 3 pm at the CT Department of Agriculture meeting room.

Submitted by Dennis King