

1. FS\_Sustainability\_Committee\_Greenwich\_Food\_Alliance\_Meeting\_Agenda\_2022\_07\_15

Documents:

[FS\\_SUSTAINABILITY\\_COMMITTEE\\_GREENWICH\\_FOOD\\_ALLIANCE\\_MEETING\\_AGENDA\\_2022\\_07\\_15.PDF](#)

1.1. FS\_Sustainability\_Committee\_Greenwich\_Food\_Alliance\_Approved\_Minutes\_2022\_07\_15

Documents:

[FS\\_SUSTAINABILITY\\_COMMITTEE\\_GREENWICH\\_FOOD\\_ALLIANCE\\_APPROVED\\_MINUTES\\_2022\\_07\\_15.PDF](#)



## **Greenwich Food Alliance**

*Leveraging Inspiration, Knowledge and Networks*

**July 15, 2022**

**9:-00 - 10:15**

FRENCH FARM  
516 LAKE AVE  
Greenwich, CT 06830

### **AGENDA**

1. Introductions
2. Housekeeping - Ali
  - a. [MINUTES](#) (Approve)
  - b. SLACK
3. Initiative update / Check in - All
4. Group exercise: *As you answer the following questions, hold your **VISION** of an equitable, just, regionalized, regenerative food system.*

**Overarching question:** What is the value of Greenwich Food Alliance?

**Please answer the following questions:** (1 | 2 (pairs) | 4 | ALL)

- What are the needs, struggles, challenges? (individually, as an organization, as a community)
- What is GFA's *purpose + vision*?
- What is GFS's *added value*? (Why are we here? Why invest our time?)

*"Food is our most intimate and powerful connection to each other, our cultures and to the earth. To transform our food system is to heal our bodies, transform our economy and protect our environment." HEAL Food Alliance*



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**7.15.2022**

**MINUTES - ~~DRAFT~~ APPROVED**

**GCDS FRENCH FARM**

**Attendance:** Nick Skeadas Curbside Compost, Ali Ghiorse The Foodshed Network, Demetria Nelson Commissioner of Human Services, Myra Klockenbrink Land + Water Sector, Nick Bridge Sam Bridge Nursery, Julie DesChamps Waste Free Greenwich, Petra Vanderlee Saichin Coffee For Good, Trisha Tozzi Native Coastal Edible Permaculture, Danille Jean Guillaume Coordinates the First Selectman's Youth Commission, Aaron Sinay Greenwich Country Day School French Farm, Cheryl Moss Greenwich Community Gardens, Trisha Tozzi Gardens Native Coastal Edible Permaculture, Ali Ghiorse The Foodshed Network.

**Meeting called to order** 9:07am @ GCDS French Farm

### **Introductions + Initiative Update:**

\* **Petra is interested** in learning more and might be available to participate in the future, **Myra** Climate Emergency Resolution and her work with GEAG, currently working to get the Resolution endorsed by BOS, in the process of revising and negotiating with the Town on language that feels right to all parties. **Danielle** talked about her interest in engaging the FSYC on environmental projects, **Trisha** focuses on regenerative agriculture, established pollinator gardens in Byram and would like to engage the town on a food forest also in Byram, involved in Greenwich Community Gardens Armstrong Court Garden, **Julie** Food Matters Campaign success stories, Zero Waste Schools initiative, and food scrap recycling expansion. **Demetria** works with residents of Greenwich who are food insecure, by providing and overseeing the resources available, engaging youth on town volunteers such as partnering with Greenwich Land Trust Youth Corps Initiative, and Greenwich Conservation Commission Food Assessment for

Sustainable CT. **Aaron** how French Farm came about, the property is a historical landmark and botanical garden, more of a botanical garden than a farm, a Master Gardener is cataloging all the different species, engaging GCDS students, wants the farm to be a place where students can exhale and enjoy and find inspiration, made working on the farm a sport credit, kids love being on the farm, and the programs will continue to grow as will connection with the community.

**Nick Bridge** Sam Bridge multi generational owner of their current property in Greenwich, started the Sam Bridge Winter Farmers Market, Cheryl asked if there is demand for more natives and would SB be open to providing more natives Nick said yes, but the market is fickle; and people 'want they want' and they have to make available what is going to make financial sense. They are working to educate the community about the importance of natives and raise awareness and that is happening more and more. Slowly customers are catching on.

**Cheryl** represents Board member Greenwich Community Gardens, also represents GCG at the Greenwich Sustainability Committee meetings, and is working with Myra on the Climate Emergency Resolution. **Nick Skeadas** wants to revamp the waste laws, update the language and laws, talking with towns about universal recycling law, revamp state law, boost the food donation side - by making sure food rescue is in place, work with municipalities: environmental groups partner and collaborate from the bottom up to change the laws and policy - have to get organics out of the waste stream. Ali encouraged Nick to reclaim the language and instead of waste, replace it with 'resource + value stream.' **Ali** Greenwich Food System Forum was a success and looking forward to the fall series, orchestrating Greenwich Food Alliance, working with Collective Mind on how to leverage networks as a pathway for systemic change, White House Conference on Hunger and Nutrition Listening Sessions, Food Culture Collective changing the narrative and working towards food system transformation through storytelling and lived experience, article on Food Systems and Housing System and the correlation between them.

**Ali** led the group in an exercise; to help clarify shared vision and purpose for GFA. We broke into pairs to discuss four questions, noted below, and followed up with a discussion. As the orchestrator of GFA Ali wants to hear everyone's voice, as shared vision and purpose is fundamental to our success.

Thank you for taking the time to help clarify, define and advance Greenwich Food Alliance. Input from each of you is critical to the success of this Alliance, as we will be more impactful + successful, if we align on our purpose + vision.

The following questions will help us find alignment and gain clarity on the VALUE of GFA and our Shared Purpose. As you answer the following questions hold YOUR vision of an equitable, just, regional, and regenerative food system in Greenwich.

1. What are the needs, struggles, and challenges within the Greenwich food system? (Think expansively: to include your individual experience to that of your organization and our community overall. Examples of what we can REIMAGINE: fresh markets with affordable food throughout town, dam free rivers, SNAP at all our farmers markets, farm to school, food + garden education in schools, organic diversion for all residents, town farm and education center, incubators and seed funding for food entrepreneurs who would benefit from pathways to economic empowerment.)
2. In your mind, what is GFA's purpose?
3. What is your vision for GFA?
4. What added value does GFA bring to you as an individual and organization?

Some responses to questions: GFA is an opportunity to get to know each other, re-imagine our own community, our own street, how do you want our community to look, getting kids involved at a young age is key, encouraging them to compost so it becomes second nature. Important to zoom back and look at the big picture, and explore what is possible, envision, be creative, imagine without getting bogged down in the how and why, local government typically gets taken over by the loudest voice, we need to be loud and claim what we want to see, need to override angry voices, we need to empower an education system that centers food, when we address food we solve many problems, we need to envision a pathway that will lead us to what we all want to see. GFA could engage ideas that promote a system to be more vocal and override the negative voices that can often be damaging. Identify themes that we can each promote through our existing infrastructure - in other words do not necessarily advance initiatives in our own right, but help advance the issues and support awareness around key issues. Hotchkiss School [Fairfield Farm](#). Educate children, work with the school system.

**Ali** will follow up with Climate Emergency Resolution - **all members welcome to write their own LTE**. Will invite CT Farm to School

Coalition to come and speak about their work and how Greenwich might engage. Hire an artist to draw out our vision for an equitable, just, regenerative and regionalized food system for Greenwich and convert it onto a webpage: to serve as a resource for the community and a map: pathway to include direction and steps we can take to realize our vision.

Group thanked Aaron for hosting, we all agreed meeting in person, outside in a beautiful space made all the difference!

*Prepared by Ali Ghiorse*

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*HEAL Food Alliance*