



Greenwich Food Alliance

Leveraging Inspiration, Knowledge and Networks

Minutes 3.18.2022 - Draft

Sam Bridge Nursery Greenhouse

Attendance: Cheryl Moss; Greenwich Community Gardens, Nick Skeadas Curbside Compost, Janet Stone McGuigan Chair Greenwich Sustainability, Alan Gorkin Sleepy Cat Farm, Nick Bridge Sam Bridge Farmers' Market, Mary Tobin Waste Free Greenwich, Ali Ghiorse The Foodshed Network, Danielle Blaine Food Rescue US, Sarah Caccaro Greenwich Conservation Commission, Gaby Rattner CCI, Demetria Nelson, Commissioner of Human Services, Joan Seguine Shellfish Commission and Greenwich Pollinator Pathway, Sharon Psychojos Ambassador Food Rescue US Fairfield County

Meeting called to order; 9:05am

Introductions - everyone

Ali Ghiorse The Foodshed Network; Minutes (approved 11.5.21 + 1.10.22) Slack GFA communications channel GSC-State of Sustainability Report Initiative update Food Systems Sector page. Next meeting will invite Windham Community Food Network - guest speaker in May and / or CT Food Policy Council - DoAg - why are municipal level networks important to advancing food system transformation throughout CT and New England

Nick Skeadas Curbside Compost; mission is to remove as much organic material out of the waste stream as possible; picking up shells from restaurants and food establishments and bringing them to Fairfield to cure

Mary Tobin, Waste Free Greenwich; announced Food Matters Challenge Initiative and Rethink Waste Fair - promotional support needed

Danille Blaine, Food Rescue US - big influx of volunteers during Covid and people have started traveling again and are in need of more volunteers, asked Nick Bridge if they could set up a table at the Farmer's Market and engage marketers who might be interested in volunteering

Joan Seguire, Shellfish Commission and Greenwich Pollinator Pathway - announced Save the Sound; anyone interested in volunteering or having a table is welcome to, Curbside is interested. The Stamford Shell Recovery Project - the project is based on a pilot model in Fairfield, that redirects shells (oysters + clams) out of the waste stream and sends them to Fairfield where they laid out on a parking lot to cure for a year in the open sun. The curing process removes any threat of harmful bacteria. The shells are then put back into the Sound so their natural ecosystem services can support the regrowth of new oysters and foster the health of the water and ecosystem. The project in Stamford has been paused due to regulation questions / concerns.

Gabby Rattner; CCI - clients can not use SNAP online causing a huge barrier for those who are food insecure. ACME the 'least expensive' option, it is not like living in a big city where it is easier to find a place to meet your needs. Partnership with Food Rescue - Fairfield County has been a significant improvement as they provide fresh, better quality produce. Clients were exposed to new and different kinds of foods that they grew to like. Residents in the western part of town likely go to Costco in Port Chester as there really isn't anything outside of Citarella + ACME, Stop and Shop and long distance away without a car. Neighbor to Neighbor has also offered significant support and their new facility will provide clients an opportunity to shop with dignity and self select their own food. There needs to be less stigma around food insecurity. Provide food for 18 - 22 families once a week. Fresh food came from Baldor and Food Rescue. Danielle Blaine talked about the significant donations they received from Trader Joes and Aux Delices. Ali Ghiorse talked about a goal of working with the Department of Human Services to provide SNAP at the Greenwich Farmers Market.

Cheryl Moss; Greenwich Community Gardens - the garden has a wait list and they are considering expanding the Bible Street gardens into a meadow. They would like to have a garden downtown, close to those who need access. Ali Ghiorse commented how GCG is a critical component to a just food system, Patty Sechi was intentional about

creating a narrative around GCG that highlighted food justice as it provides access to land for those who do not have access to their own land have agency to grow their own food. Cheryl Moss noted that where there is land there is limited transportation access.

Ali Ghiorse; The Foodshed Network engaged the group of values and principles - led to an open discussion about GFA vision - what does our 'vision board' look like? Mary Tobin talked about a network map and that she'd be interested in leading the group in a network map. An easy and obvious place to go to and learn and see how people are connected and who is connected. Ali Ghiorse mentioned the tool network weaving; nodes and spokes and hubs. Articles in the Resource Workbook. Human networks mimic the ecosystem.

- ❖ Food is a human right; not a privilege
- ❖ Community gardens downtown
- ❖ Rooftop gardens
- ❖ Robust network of school gardens
- ❖ CT farm food served at school lunch
- ❖ Shellfish curing stations

Next meeting via Zoom; Ali to invite CT Food Policy Council / DoAG or Windham Community Food Network to speak

Meeting adjourned @ 10:20am

Prepared by Ali Ghiorse

"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 & protect our environment."

HEAL Food Alliance