



Greenwich Food Alliance

Leveraging Inspiration, Knowledge and Networks

5.20.2022

MINUTES - DRAFT

APPROVED

ZOOM

Attendance: Nick Skeadas Curbside Compost, Ali Ghiorse The Foodshed Network, Danielle Blaine Food Rescue US, Sarah Caccaro Greenwich Conservation Commission, Demetria Nelson, Commissioner of Human Services, Joan Seguin, Shellfish Commission and Greenwich Pollinator Pathway, Sharon Psychojos Ambassador Food Rescue US Fairfield County, Myra Klockenbrink Land + Water Sector, Two Students from Greenwich High School, Trisha Tozzi Native Coastal Edible Permaculture

Meeting called to order 9:03

Introductions: GHS students volunteering with Food Rescue FC, Danielle rescued pomegranate juice, Sarah Cocarro GFSF CC By Sea Myra, GSC Land Water, WFG, Greenwich Pollinator pathway, work centers the commons: we all share our natural resources in, they are a public trust: waters trees and landscapes conversation I want to deepen in the community - many privately owned land and water that are a public trust, Danielle - 19 sites and now close to 40; tremendous need - 40% wasted from farms and grocery stores - brings in this excess food such as bacon and eggs and has doubled - huge need for them to have this help - what then needs to happen if signed off into law Grocery stores exceed and have to donate - Governor signed off but what needs to happen next? Now what? Sit for a period of time before coming to law? Next steps?

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABillStatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB5146

Pushing grocery stores to donate meat and produce all the education is starting to work; excellent work happening in Ca and NY (partnering with WFG and other communities – ReTHink EXPO, rescues from the Farmers Market in Westport – home gardeners can donate their food ... gleanings! Is working. Trisha Tozzi local Greenwich landscape designer gardener local native permaculture expertise with natives learn about eco-type project Very impressed with Food Rescue, one of Trish's ideas is to create a food forest in Byram, and bring to community residents who live next to Byram park and educate how a food forest can function in that park – propose it to the town GCG and Neighborhood, Nick S – Curbside Compost Zero Waste Fair in Wilton, working to recover food scraps as much as possible and first donate, then go to people and the excess food recover collection all over CT: residents and grocery stores and everywhere ... busy facing challenges; Joan; Greenwich Shellfish Commission and other organizations Demetria Nelson; Commission Greenwich Department of Human Services worked on the Greenwich Food Assessment with Sarah Cocarro

Ali introduced Cyrena and Martha

Cyrena;

State Dept of Ag – admin support as well as CT State Food Policy Council all of the meetings are open to the public; Council focuses on supporting local food networks: different stakeholders throughout the state huge part of the CT Food Policy Council is trying to do what matters to folks, what is going on – hearing from non profit leaders trying to elevate the issues that are happening on a local level recognizing big difference between what is regulated on a state level and local level and the power that local food communities have to create change. There will be in the next few months a grant for local food groups to build capacity and support and build out the network predominating just the members and look forward to regular robust meeting discussions on what is going on throughout the state. Thank you for coming together as a group to support food systems. We encourage what you are doing as it is very important to have a face (food system face) in the community - stories you are hearing and work through solutions

and we build out on different municipalities to hear from each other and how solutions can be adapted ...

Local Food Purchase Assistance Grant: part of the USDA Rescue Plan Act funding funneled down to state agencies competitive grant program senior centers, apply and purchase CTGrown produce meat eggs and get that food into communities – through its relationships, can take a look at that link; working some groups who might be interested; deadline May 31st ... Collaboration: showing collaboration is important

Martha;

Have attending CT Food Policy Council meetings, Martha is an appointed member now, but was an affiliate for a long time – the robustness of the conversation now compared to what it used to be is great due to the staff at CT DoAG and our Commissioner who has taken a personal interest in a way that wasn't the case before.

Food systems change is making progress through influence on a local level, important to tie multiple communities working on issues in their own community with conversations happening at a local level.

A municipal Food Policy Council does not have to have formal power - Springfield started off as an Alliance. Do not have to wait for an ordinance to organize.

Food Policy Councils more broadly – work primarily with their cities the Hartford Food Policy Council was the second food policy council when it was formed the CT food Policy Council was the first in the country.

A lot of that work continues to be promoted. What would be the benefit of structure? [Mark Winne](#): primer on why a policy council and they can be structured ... lots of pictures and quotes. What is the reason for doing it? Different communities have done them for different reasons: to address food inequity across the city, getting community input and getting support from the city. There can be a Commission with the city support ... varying degrees of support, different from Hartford Mayor today and the prior Mayor

he is hugely supportive of Commissions this current mayor has a particular interest in food, however the downside of creating a municipal sponsored thing: if they don't care if it happens or continues, it can be difficult to get your work done if you have an interested government body it is wonderful, if not it becomes difficult. Loose autonomy, the way we want to be grassroots: specific issues around Urban Ag. What Springfield formed was 100 grassroots. This is important and these are issues we care about and need influence to happen in any way.

Three levels: CT Food System Alliance and Food Policy Council and the alliance is a fiscally sponsored activity with the primary notion that CT needs a Food Action Plan in order to map the future of the food system and what do we want our food system to look like? The work of a Plan becomes key – what does a plan look like from the bottom up? What is happening in Hartford and Greenwich, Waterberry has a lot of the same issues once you get those multiple inputs into a statewide plan.

Myra;

Pollinator Pathway has grown to have State Policy – grassroots movements

Martha;

Yes there used to be a 'food lane' and 'environmental lane' and they are starting to intersect: need to be connected and held in context together.

When talking about food, we have to discuss climate and environment ...

Myra;

All this work is training ourselves to prepare for food insecurity resulting from climate change and the pressures that are going to beset us ... answering those challenge

Martha;

The work of the commission, does it make a difference to have a body? Hartford PC did a evaluation asking if PC make a difference – one of the most interesting findings they told us about our need for a PC involved residences engagement with them

as a platform to check in with residence on the importance, and how important it is to have a group to talk about these big issues, the overwhelming important thought is that it was important and yet most people had no idea that they had a PC and so they were not clearly and sufficiently engaging the community rewrote our ordinance to include a community voice mechanism. Idea of having a place that residence can surface issues to them and a formal place where that conversation can take place people owning their food system – all of our meetings are open to the public but don't have as many of the public as we should – this kind of mechanism having a container for those issues can be a good container and tool in the tool box for food system change.

The regional work of food systems or food policy change - local, state level but a region like New England - think about our region as a regional foodshed other five New England states all engaged in food system have been planning for a while, active in food plan: Vermont Farm to Plate – Maine and all New England states have a plan but CT does not have a food plan – working as a region, what would it take for New England to produce 30% of its own food by 2030 ... as a region in willful territory –

Lots of food leaves New England only to come back processed - Lots that we can do fisheries – New England Feeding New England Planning Project supported by USDA get a picture of what it looks like for the region and CT is represented in that conversation with a quarterly update and tune into the update CT can bring to the conversation the southern part of the region; CT is the most urban and diverse and we can address equity; who are we talking about and who are talking about bringing to URBAN and equity and not just who can afford fresh food.

Myra;

Co ownership of farm land – Dutch model that used ... raw milk model does not own the cow but a share and takes our farmland and makes it more accessible for our community.

Cyrena;

DEI working group - a lot of conversation about cooperative models: partial of land ... ex. MA incubator programs and land

shared by producers and shared equipment and recognizing that most farmers use this equipment. About a year and half – 43 individuals across 4 different groups have access to secure land tenure, resources and capital. Education BIPOC led organization or service provides and working with BIPOC communities – UCONN create a statewide report for DofAG state policymakers what can be done ag landscape but broader food system more inclusive and accessible and recognizing not much targeting support to invest in these disinvested communities – all open to the public.

How will CT DofAg engage local groups and what will you be looking for?

Offer stipend to participates to join the meetings: and get other ways to get feedback one great potential mechanism and for groups like you all

Pathways – between CT DoAg: always supportive but not in the zoning code with the support of the city the Food Policy Commission worked with a bunch of people to rewrite the zoning code and support zoning commission and rewrite but support for bees, chickens, comm garden and got in the code and official body to endorse and promote and speak to it at public hearing grow food anywhere in Hartford something the commission was able to usher through.

Not a one size fits all answer – CT Policy Council still working out how it is engaging in policy is helpful is not trying to do everything what are we looking to accomplish and finding a pathway to do that – start by picking an issue you all can focus on.

Every community has to be organized. It is the only way we are going to change Farm to school, local procurement – school gardens ... Waste Diversion ...

Chat;

09:19:01 From Cyrena Thibodeau she/her to Everyone:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABillStatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB5146

09:25:08 From Danielle Blaine, Food Rescue US to Everyone: According to SchoolHouse Rock it should now be a law

since the Governor signed it but I would have expected to hear more about this. We will definitely work on promoting it.

09:28:18 From Cyrena Thibodeau she/her to Everyone:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Boards/Boards/Connecticut-Food-Policy-Council> 09:28:26 From Cyrena Thibodeau she/her to Everyone:
<https://ctfoodpolicy.com/>09:31:46 From Cyrena Thibodeau she/her to Everyone:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/ADaRC/Local-Food-Purchase-Assistance-Cooperative-Agreement-Program> 09:39:47 From Cyrena Thibodeau she/her to Everyone: that resource can be found here along with many other useful documents
<https://www.foodpolicynetworks.org/food-policy-resources/>

09:43:50 From Danielle Blaine, Food Rescue US to Everyone:
We would like to see a Food Policy Council in Bridgeport. We work with the United Way in Stamford and Danbury with Food Collaboratives that they oversee.09:44:48 From Cyrena Thibodeau she/her to Everyone: CFSA- <https://ctfoodsystemalliance.com/>09:48:03 From Myra Klockenbrink to Everyone: and permaculture is being resurrected to answer that environment/food policy intersection! 10:01:47 From Joan Seguin to Everyone: Hello. I just wanted to share that Paul Greenberg will be discussing his new book called the Climate Diet on June 15th at the Library. 10:14:58 From Danielle Blaine, Food Rescue US to Everyone: Thank you for sharing your knowledge with our group. Lots to think about and good point about focusing on one issue to involve community 10:17:52 From Cyrena Thibodeau she/her to Everyone:
<https://www.ctfarmtoschool.org/> 10:20:36 From Myra Klockenbrink to Everyone: Thank you for all your work and input...good to know all of this!

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