

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

**KARA HAHN**  
LEGISLATOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

- COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
- ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST REVIEW BOARD
- WATER & LAND INVASIVES ADVISORY BOARD
- FOOD POLICY COUNCIL



**COMMITTEE CHAIR**  
ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING  
& AGRICULTURE

**VICE-CHAIR**  
PARKS & RECREATION

**MEMBER**  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
& ENERGY

## COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**TO: Members of the Food Policy Council:  
All interested parties**

**FROM: Honorable Kara Hahn**

**DATE: February 16, 2016**

**RE: Food Policy Council Meeting**

---

### **I. Council Members in Attendance**

1. August Ruckdeschel - SCEDP
2. Nikki Kateman – Local 338 RWDSW-UFCW
3. Joel Panagakos – J Kings
4. Stephen Kramarcik - SCDSS
5. Jessica Anson – LIFB
6. Zahrine Bajwa – CCE
7. Michael Haynes – LI Cares

### **Additional Attendees**

1. Lauren Moy – Sustainable Long Island
2. Caroline Kiang

### **II. 2015 Food Policy Council Report**

- a. There was no quorum so a vote could not be taken to approve the 2015 Food Policy Council report. A vote will be conducted via e-mail with all voting Food Policy Council members.

### III. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. Community Gardens –
  - i. The Long Island Community Gardens Association (LICGA) recently sent out a survey to community gardens across the island to assess their interest in participating in the group. Results will be evaluated by the next Food Policy Council Meeting. Subcommittee is also exploring incentives for potential member gardens to participate in the LICGA.
- b. Food Education -
  - i. Subcommittee chairs were not present. However, August Ruckdeschel delivered two quick updates. First, USDA “Farm to School” grants are being retooled by the federal government. As such, the next round of applications will not be released until September 2016, with applications due in November. It was pointed out that this will be a difficult period for school administrations to work on applications as it marks the beginning of a new school year. However, in the meantime, school districts should be encouraged to apply for “Fuel Up to Play 60” grants. “Fuel Up to Play 60” is offering School Nutrition Equipment Grants of up to \$5,000 in total value for the 2016-2017 School Year. The purpose of these grants is to assist School Nutrition Directors in the purchase of equipment that will enhance the long term implementation of their school breakfast and lunch programs. The application window begins in March and ends June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Food Equity –
  - i. Subcommittee is moving forward with providing infrastructural improvements to two newly signed stores (P & N Grocery in Wyandanch; Weir’s Deli in Medford). Tentative plans for store events in the spring. Subcommittee is exploring recruiting stores in Brentwood and/or Central Islip to participate in the program.
- d. Why Buy Local? –
  - i. Two site visits and information sessions were held at the Suffolk County Farm in Yaphank for farmers, butchers, and meat processors to discuss the potential availability of the meat processing facility. Suffolk County is looking for a private operator to modernize and commercialize an existing meat processing facility at the Suffolk County Farm in Yaphank. This development will eliminate facility maintenance costs from County tax rolls and provide an economic boost for the local livestock industry, as recently recommended in the newly-adopted Suffolk County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan. There are currently no meat processing facilities in Suffolk County so producers who want to sell meat to consumers or restaurants must first transport animals to upstate New York

or other nearby states for processing. This ultimately raises production costs and reduces overall profits for local farmers. The ability to process animals at a local USDA facility in Suffolk County would create additional agricultural jobs and increase the income and sustainability of local farmers, the availability of locally-raised meat, and the diversity of agricultural enterprises in the region.

**IV. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

- a. Vacancies remain in Community Organizations (2), Seafood, and Food Processors. Council members are asked to help fill these vacancies.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. The Suffolk County Food Policy Council is looking for speakers and alternate meeting locations for the 2016 year.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT – Next meeting Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am at William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York 11787.**

**2016 Meeting Schedule as follows:**

1. April 5, 2016
2. June 14, 2016
3. August 9, 2016
4. October 11, 2016
5. December 13, 2016

