



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

DATE: August 14th, 2018

RE: Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes

INTRODUCTIONS:

I. Introductions

Name:	Email:	Organization:
August Ruckdeschel	august.ruckdeschel@suffolkcountyny.gov	SCEDP
Cara Montesano	cara.montesano@stonybrookmedicine.edu	Stony Brook Medicine
Gregson Pigott	gregson.pigott@suffolkcountyny.gov	Suffolk County Department of Health
Patricia Gremillion-Burdge	pgremill@wsboces.org	WSBOCES
Michele Gervat	michele.gervat@heart.org	AHA
Janet Sklar	janetsklar@optonline.net	NYSNA
Stephen Kramarak	Stephen.kramarak@suffolkcounty.ny.gov	Department of Social Services
Celeste Hernandez	chernandez@hwcli.com	HWCLI
Jennifer Zakrzewski	jenjzrdn@gmail.com	ShopRite
Angela Mckelvey	angela.mckelvey@wakefern.com	ShopRite
Mike Haynes	mhayes@licares.org	LI Cares
Jenna Brown	jenna.brown1111@gmail.com	ShopRite

II. The Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center: Mark Bridgen

- a. Campus of Cornell University
 - i. University pays for facility and staff is faculty of University
 - ii. Research center 96th year at current location
 - iii. Main purpose is to work with the Ag community to make sure it survives/profitable
 - 1. Green house growers
 - 2. Nursery industry
 - a. Landscape maintenance and turf

3. Vegetables and fruits
 - a. Grapes- viticulturists
- iv. Only center that exclusively horticultural including staff of:
 1. Cross disciplines – plant disease, weed scientist, ...
 2. 1 stop shop for stakeholders
 - a. Bring their disease, bugs, etc and help how to determine how control them
- v. #3 crop ag county in the country
- vi. #1 greenhouse and nurseries in NYS
 1. Great weather- zone 7, fresh water, good sunlight, great soil, good market
- vii. Tour
 1. 68 total acres
 2. #1 problem is deer on Long Island- they have fence surrounding their whole location along with cattle guard.
 3. Vineyard- 3 acres of grapes
 4. Organic land- 4 acres of land
 - a. Hemp research
 5. Research is conducted through environmental grant funding
 - a. Non-bias research- no benefit to any research
 - b. Field demonstrations- Contact and condition sensitive to Long Island farms
 6. Market research conducted on site
 - a. Done to determine what is popular

III. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. Why Buy Local: Choose LI- Local and Independent Campaign
 - i. Pledge to spend 10% on local LI products each week (\$17.60)
 1. Foods, seafood, wine, craft beer
 2. Would increase \$19.2 million in local sales each year (June-November)
 - ii. Rolled out this summer as a “soft launch” but difficult time of year to interact with farmers/fishermen
 - iii. 100 people took pledge thus far
 - iv. Future ideas:
 1. Encourage companies to give discount when purchasing local- ex: if you spend \$20 discount to \$17.60 to reach pledge.
 2. Supermarkets (ShopRite)- look to see how much local is being purchase

- v. How can we help to promote it?
 1. Spread the word, share the flyers
 2. Use Social Media
 3. Ask people to take the pledge
 4. Take pictures of your local purchase
 5. Use #ChooseLI and #1760 hashtags to promote program on flyers and posters
 6. Share with CSA's
- b. Food Equity
 - i. Mastic store event: Friday 9/7/18
- c. School Administration and Food Education
 - i. NYS Farm to School Funding Announced
 1. Governor Cuomo announces record \$1.5 million available to support growth of farm-to-school programs across New York State ahead of 2018-19 school year
 - ii. The National School Lunch Program spends 30,000,000 dollars a day for lunch to feed students in the USA
 - iii. Struggle to have parents fill out forms for free and reduced meals
 1. "No shaming" law- requires schools to still give all kids the meal Leaving schools at a deficit

IV. Vacancies

- a. Community group
- b. Seafood/fisheries

V. New Business

- a. Food Waste Reduction and Diversion Reimbursement Program
- b. Healthier Long Island Challenge (December 2018)
 - i. Agricultural based
 1. Farm to school
 2. Tower gardens
 3. School gardens

Next meeting: (Public Hearing) October 9, 2018- 9am at Suffolk County Legislature, William H. Rogers Building, Clerk's Conference Room, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, NY.