



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

**DATE: June 11, 2019**

**RE: Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes**

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**Attendance:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Organization:</b>
August Ruckdeschel	<a href="mailto:august.ruckdeschel@suffolkcountyny.gov">august.ruckdeschel@suffolkcountyny.gov</a>	SCEDP
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Michael Haynes	<a href="mailto:mhaynes@licares.org">mhaynes@licares.org</a>	LI Cares
Kim Schultz	<a href="mailto:kschultz@familyres.org">kschultz@familyres.org</a>	FREE

**1. Bridge Gardens**

- a. Stewardship project of Peconic Land Trust
  - i. 11 years in existence (2008)
  - ii. Property was donated to Land Trust
    1. 5 acres of land
  - iii. Busy months between March-December but are open year round
    1. Community resource, education, workshops, concerts, tasting and cooking classes (kitchen on-site and grill outside), tours
    2. Free admission but fees for some programming events
    3. Membership option
  - iv. Emphasis on sustainable gardening and organic methods
    1. Native plants

- 2. Fruit trees
    - 3. Vegetable/herb garden
      - a. Harvest on Mondays for Sag Harbor food pantry
    - 4. Community gardens
  - b. Peconic Land Trust
    - i. Priority: Conservation of local farms and local food
    - ii. Quail Hill Farms
      - 1. 25<sup>th</sup> year
      - 2. CSA program- families go there and harvest their own food
    - iii. Office in Southampton
    - iv. Ag Center
      - 1. Rents land to new and expanding farmers
      - 2. Approximately 100 acres of land, irrigation systems and resources provided
    - v. "Long Island Grown"
      - 1. Lecture series that features local growers
        - a. Informative
        - b. Meet and greet farmers
        - c. 6<sup>th</sup> year
  - c. Distribution of information to communities
    - i. Mailing list of activities and events
    - ii. Website - peconiclandtrust.org
      - 1. Blogs, events, resources
    - iii. "Farm-to-Field" event in August
    - iv. Quail Hill event in September
  - d. Funding sources
    - i. Funding does not come from Community Preservation Fund
    - ii. Private funding from donors
- 2. FREE - Mobile Food Market**
- a. Increased number of stops from 6 to 12 between Nassau and Suffolk County
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> bus added
  - c. 5 days/week with 2 stops/day
  - d. Now collaborating with Smile Farms
  - e. Includes low cost for produce and offers incentives to members
- 3. Subcommittee updates:**
- a. Food Equity:
    - i. Targeting Food Pantries instead of corner stores
    - ii. SNAP pre-assessment tool used to assess the pantry environment
    - iii. Created a tool to determine which activities/projects the director would like to implement
      - 1. Long Island Cares suggested collaborating with their RD on project.
  - b. School Administration and Food Education: No report
  - c. "Why Buy Local?":

- i. #4 in NYS in agricultural production
  - 1. Based on raw products not products (i.e. value of grapes vs. value of wine OR potatoes vs. potato chips)
- ii. #1 in NYS in greenhouse, nursery, sod, cantaloupe, cauliflower, mushroom, and pumpkin production.
- iii. #1 in NYS in market value of aquaculture products sold
- iv. Average age of farmers is decreasing in Suffolk versus rest of the country - down from 57.6 in 2012 to 55.3 in 2017.
- v. Number of organic farms is going up – from 15 in 2012 to 25 in 2017 (+67%)
- vi. \$7,511 sales/acre in Suffolk County versus \$782/acre in NY State

**4. New Businesses: None**

**5. Adjournment**

- a. Next meeting is August 13, 2019.