



## New Haven Food Policy Council

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### Meeting Minutes February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

#### Attendees:

Council members: Monique Centrone-Stefani, Fred Cofrancesco, Tagan Engel, Roberta Friedman, Frank Mitchell, Diana Richter, Alycia Santilli, Dawn Slade, Anika Thrower, Maria Tupper

Affiliate and community members: Catherine Bradshaw, Laura Mattaliano, Billy Bromage, Cara Donovan, Jacquie Lewin, Joel Tolman, Kate O'Shaughnessy, Amy Kleinman, Susan O'Leary, Amanda Tripp, Shannon Raider, Ellen Pendergast

#### Working Groups

Brief update of each Working Group from chair /council member representative:

Food Assistance – Billy. Continuing work on Food Assistance Resource Guide, comprehensive listing of all food assistance resources that are available, what information is available, identifying gaps and overlaps, etc. Also working to develop partnerships to universities, DSS, community action, make sure represented people are aware of resources. Kate W. is developing a senior shopper service center to help identify gaps in food security. Group helped to draft letter of support for DESK re: power outage during storm.

Billy distributed draft of letter written by Food Assistance WG to Rep. Rosa DeLauro re: Farm Bill advocacy. Letter includes anti-hunger, school food, commodity food reform issues. Jacquie suggested including language about having US crop subsidies better reflect My Plate guidelines. Tagan suggested that Margaret Read at Rudd Center could add language on school food reforms.

How to move letter forward for NHFPC approval? Tagan noted that Council can vote by email if time sensitive. Billy to email final draft to Ellen, who will distribute to Council; allow several days for comments to come back, then send back to Council for vote by email on final draft. Send final draft on letterhead to mayor prior to sending to Rep. DeLauro.

Combine NHFPC letter with letter Bioregional group is drafting? Shows power among coalition of groups but multiple letters on same subject could be effective, too. Monique suggested that we draft letter, then ask other groups if they want to sign, to be more like a movement, petition. Some organizations have to be careful of advocacy vs. lobbying. Tagan suggested an inclusive general statement, "city-wide coalition of food groups," that would include those organizations represented by council members that are listed on the NHFPC letterhead. Council voted in favor of this approach. Other organizations can send a statement of support of this letter if desired.

Urban Agriculture – Tagan. Group is meeting at same time as Economic Development, checking in together, then meeting separately. Tagan announced that Chris Randall is no longer with NHLT and that the contracted Community Foundation funding for NHLT is not continuing after this year, they will be in the general grants pool. The priorities of the Urban Ag WG are: how to keep the 47 community gardens going; developing a proposal to the Mayor on city farming and urban agriculture; and working to catalog what is going on in New Haven relating to urban agriculture to minimize overlap of events. Kathy Engle working on an Urban Ag resource guide, currently a web site; she is gathering all gardening education information.

Economic Development – Kate O'S. Ongoing work on food resource guide by student at school of forestry. Documenting factors relating to permitting, zoning, regulations that prohibit farms, food businesses; developing suggestions for policy change. Mill River facing similar issues.

School Food – Tagan. Good turnout at last meeting. CitySeed has USDA Food to School two-year grant for school district, which could provide funds for School Food WG to do outreach work, inventories, interviews, focus groups, to identify opportunities for change.

Cooking & Food Education – Cara. Continuing work to expand cooking and food education events. Partnering with Cooking Matters to find new sites to increase number of classes in New Haven in conjunction with United Way Women’s Initiative. Reviewing host site applications for 6 week programs at next WG meeting.

#### Functioning of Working Groups – what’s working, what’s not

Tagan – Tagan is still doing a lot of work for the Working Groups; there needs to be more detailed conversation to change this situation. Would like to get council members more involved, to help keep WG on track, get more educated in detail about specific topic WGs are involved in so that responsibility is shared. Some of this will be covered at the By-laws Retreat on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> -- are these reasonable expectations for council members? If not, maybe we need a staff person to oversee the Working Groups? Need to resolve! Comments? Diana -- need to have this conversation and a larger discussion about transitioning Tagan out of chair position. Maria – critical that we do this, wonders if it’s possible to get this level of overview and coordination of WGs from council members; may need staff person to do. Alycia – there are multiple issues involved: what type of work is NHFPC going to take on, what is sustainable, what is our capacity. Suggested that we resolve bylaws and then take on this issue. Jacquie – don’t bylaws contain definitions of chair/council members’ roles? Decided to hold bylaws retreat with council members tomorrow and then schedule another meeting to include others in this conversation.

#### **Food Action Plan**

Alycia S. – Planning to present FAP briefing to Board of Alders after one of their regular BOA meetings. Tagan has contacted Al Lucas and Jorge Perez to determine meeting date but everyone at City Hall has been overwhelmed with the snow emergency; she will follow up now that things have settled down. Also planning another meeting with small group of alders who are interested in these issues to help guide us on different avenues for action -- which items require legislative action, which ones can go directly to the mayor’s office, or to other departments, etc. Final FAP distributed to attendees.

**Report on findings of community-based research examining health behaviors** - Anika Thrower (formerly Johnson) presented an overview of her recent research. Congratulations to Anika on earning her doctorate!

#### **Feed New Haven blog**

Ellen – Blog Implementation Team met on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>; made some decisions about blog’s name, appearance, organization and content. Developed blog guidelines with assistance from Caty Poole; sent email out on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> requesting contributors, both regular and occasional. Blog’s target launch date is mid-March. Please pass the word – we need content, from short, personal posts to more detailed articles and stories from various organizations!

#### **ADDITIONAL TOPICS**

- **By-laws Retreat** – Taking place Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00am-1:00pm, CARE offices, 135 College Street. Tagan, Diana, Anika, Rob, Alycia, Monique, Frank, Maria to attend.
- **New Chair Person or Co-Chair** – Tagan wants to shift out of role, coach someone else in. Anyone interested? Rob – Need to establish deadline; Tagan would like to identify someone else to come on as co-chair by next NHFPC meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Tagan stated she would still like to be involved in bringing FAP to BOA. Jacquie asked if there is a job description for the chair? Can we advertise for this position, bring someone in from outside? Tagan – the Chair has to be a Council member, but this brings up the Food Systems Director position for the City of New Haven, first step identified in the FAP. Maria – need to define succession process in bylaws. Tagan stated that she has been responding to inquiries from potential funders that are coming in, suggesting funding for NHFPC for staff person and city food systems director.
- **National Conference of Mayors** – has a food policy task force, sent letter and information to Mayor DeStefano about what task force is doing. We could have Chair or food policy director attend this conference. This could add to our case for need for food systems director.
- **Nourish New Haven Food Justice Conference** – Friday and Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, NHFPC Panel at Yale Divinity School Conference – Friday Movie: Fresh and Soul Food Junkies. Saturday - community food fair, different workshops. NHFPC members on panel discussing FAP, Working Groups. Great opportunity to incorporate food issues into religious community discussion.
- **CT Humanities Conversation** – Tagan. This is a group in Middletown that is going to facilitate community conversation about food justice and food access around the state this year, in rural and urban communities. They want to know if we want to have such a conversation in New Haven? This could be a next step for FAP. We would invite about 40 people, determine focus of conversation; they fund and organize the session and provide a facilitator

to run it. Could also be a follow up to the Food Summit? Would want a good mix of people from city government, community, various organizations. Their target date is March, coming up fast. Would need to work quickly to identify a topic area. They suggested food access – too broad? Alycia S. – is this an opportunity to brainstorm future of New Haven Land Trust? Catherine B. – topic should be a little broader – growing food in New Haven. Tagan noted that Gardens are a broad topic – involves cooking, food access, health, building community, safety, education. Some interested parties: Rob, Frank, Justin Frieberg, Jacquie L., Stacy Spell, Dawn. Stacy is interested in engaging new people who may not be directly involved but benefit from work. Dawn noted the importance of education – people who need these services and activities don't know about them. How do we change people's perception of food – they just don't know! How do we get them to get it? We need new audiences, to talk their language. Cultivate new connections. Need different ways to do outreach work, partner around this idea.

Jaquie L. volunteered to research what CT Humanities has done in the past – if this leads to funding, it's important that we frame the right question. Tagan will find out if they can push the date out. Need to think carefully about whom to invite – that's an important part of what comes out of it.

- **Council Member Seat Update** Youth member – youth representative couldn't make it to NHFPC this morning due to school obligation. Although we don't have a definite answer from City Hall, it appears that we don't officially have a 12<sup>th</sup> youth seat; that would require an ordinance change. We have 11 adult seats, as well as various youth members involved in WG and represented at NHFPC meetings.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS**

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- Indoor farmers market at 1175 State Street (Crossfit building) again this Saturday morning due to snow accumulation. Great turnout last week!
- CARE health survey took place last fall; door to door surveys in six New Haven neighborhoods. Now holding a series of community forums in five locations starting March 11<sup>th</sup> to present results of survey and find out what people would like to see in their neighborhoods, get engaged in. Free dinner, child care provided.
- Land Trust Garden Committee meetings take place on second/fourth Tuesday – please join them.
- Yale Sustainable Food Project – free student intern labor available to do specific projects, such as food justice, economic development projects. 12 weeks, from June 1<sup>st</sup>-Aug 20<sup>th</sup>. Surveys, research, blogging. Contact Kate O'S. or Jacquie L. for information. Arts & Ideas -- roving village, food tours, Gateway kitchen.... ideas for projects?
- Green Expo in September at NH Folk Festival – to have a food theme
- Rock to Rock Earth Day Ride – April 20<sup>th</sup> – get involved! Great way to raise money for many local organizations.

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**Upcoming Meeting Dates for Working Groups:**

Cooking & Food Education	Monday, February 25 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm-8:00pm	City Hall
Economic Development/Food Business	Thursday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am-10:00am	City Hall
Composting committee	Tuesday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-7:00pm	City Hall
Food Assistance (formerly Emergency Food)	Friday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00am-10:30am	City Hall
School Food	Thursday, February 28 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm-7:30pm	Neighborhood Housing Services
Urban Agriculture	Thursday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am-10:00am	City Hall

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**Next Food Policy Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – 8:00-9:45am**  
**City Hall Meeting Room #1**  
**Contact: [Staff@NHFoodPolicyCouncil.org](mailto:Staff@NHFoodPolicyCouncil.org)**