

**New Haven Food Policy Council  
Minutes  
June 16, 2010**

**In attendance:**

Diana Richter, Moses Boone, Tagan Engel (Chair), Frank Mitchell, Roberta Friedman

**Agenda:** announcement/updates, council business, childhood nutrition, wellness, DC, food coop, objectives, composting, food policy NH, green carts

**Announcements and Updates:**

- **Chicken ordinance:**
  - Diana: Chickens in her neighbor's yard are well behaved, the ordinance we supported is working well in her neighborhood.
  - **ACTION STEP:** Maria will look into whether Hamden needs support on their ordinance, in which case we'll send a letter.
- **D.C. update:** Tagan Engel represented the NHFPC at the White House this month, as part of Michelle Obama's Let's Move Initiative, and an invitation to chefs in action in schools.
  - Frank: Ohio food producer partnered with local school and local college to buy bulk and upgrade food for both with emphasis on local produce and meat.
- **Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act:** The House version was introduced; includes a \$0.6 increase for reimbursable lunches; and updating of nutrition standards for school meals to meet the most current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and of competitive foods to meet nutrition standards such as those proposed by the Institute of Medicine.
- **Wellness Committee** had its final meeting.
  - Tagan will circulate the new Wellness Plan (successes including getting rid of vending machines, reigning in French fries)
  - New proposals: prohibiting use of food and/or physical activity as reward or punishment.
  - Committee is now adding mental health and other issues to the wellness category.
  - There is the district wellness committee; 18 schools have their own committees. Each school has a wellness team which promotes general wellness in the school, particularly nutrition and physical activity.
- **Food Coop:** A Food Coop is opening at 360 State St.

**Council business**

- **New officers, new members**
  - **ACTION STEP:** We will submit Moses Boone and Maria Tupper's names to BOA for membership on Council.

- Tagan Engel took over from Roberta Friedman as Chair of the Council, beginning at this meeting.
- **Objectives for the future:**
  - **Green Carts** based on the NYC program
    - How do we as a council since we don't want to create a program?
    - Should carts be located around schools, by train station?
    - Should we find a partner for this project?
      - Yale Young Entrepreneur's Program students possible
  - **Composting**
    - Office of Sustainability is interested in promoting composting as part of waste management.; energy efficiency is main priority; Sustainability Office is doing pilot in Westville with larger containers for recycling, smaller for garbage t
    - We can provide info to city on how composting works in other cities (e.g. Albany, CA).
    - Our goal: to encourage people to do more with organic material in their own yard.
    - Potential partner organizations: Master Recyclers, Solar Youth, ACT New Haven
    - Issues: Should city have a food composting program or should people be encouraged to do their own? Can or will people do this at their homes? What about apartments, multi unit dwellings?
    - Possible ways to help: information gathering: other comparably sized cities doing this, contact information; pros and cons; survey; cost benefits analysis
    - **ACTION STEP:** Tagan will contact Christine Tang to see how we can help with the process
    - Other possibilities: policy summary for BOA, invite Sherill Baldwin to speak to us: expert, works for State.  
[Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov](mailto:Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov)
  - **Developing a food policy for New Haven**
    - Process begun last summer with intern. How should we proceed with this project and fold in the map/food system?
    - The food map and policy could be an interactive online experience. We could review the earlier version and proceed with either composting or green carts project while updating the food policy plan.
  - **A Food Week?**
    - Work with BOA to proclaim a Food Week?
    - Happen in conjunction with:
      - Arts and Ideas Festival
      - Restaurant Week

- Cook and Care Walkathon (DESK)—one day event
- Involve schools (Tim Cipriano)

**Idea Bank (updated monthly)**

- Create our own web page (Google provides one for \$10/year)
- Research Food Miles—anything produced or sold in state has to show how many miles it takes to get to a grocery store. Being done in Sweden.
- Does NH have a national sister city? Need to match demographics, weather, geography (Diana will ask DataHaven)
- Finish food system map

**Party for NHFPC members and family:** potluck, mid-July; Rob will send out Doodle Meeting Maker to schedule; at Maria's house

**Respectfully submitted by Roberta Friedman, NHFPC member**