



## New Haven Food Policy Council

### Minutes

July 21, 2010

Present:

Members: Phaedra Ebron, Tagan Engel (Chair), Roberta Friedman, Diana Richter, Michael Jones, Frank Mitchell

Community: Maria Tupper, Moses Boone, Catherine Bradshaw, Melissa

### Council stability and support

- Tagan is in contact with the Mayor's office re: money allocated for FPC
- Need an intern to for research, minutes, etc.
  - Yale Hunger Action Project may have interested students
- Grants
  - Can FPC apply for grants through City? Or need to do through 501c3?
- Membership update:
  - Maria Tupper's and Moses Boone's names have been submitted to Mayor; Monica Centrone-Stefani hasn't been approved yet by Board.
  - One seat on FPC left to fill.

### Projects

#### Composting

- Why should Food Policy Council get involved?
  - primary reason is to grow better food
  - reduce use of petroleum products
  - save resources for city/planet

Michael Jones' report on research

- Only one state facility to process composting in New Milford; permit expensive
- NH at least 5 years away from getting a permit
- State needs to incentivize people to process food scraps
- Biggest opportunity now: encouraging restaurants/businesses to compost in New Milford.
- Yale: just beginning; send trucks to NM; have campus space to compost—long term plan
- Schools: not certain there's a central site to compost. Common Ground composts. Tim Cipriano is interested, but can't focus on this now.
- What about Chapel Ave site?
- Look to Canada for models
- Large scale composting needs to be outside the city; Bridgeport is working on it

Meeting with Sherill Baldwin, Tagan Engel and Maria Tupper

- Dawn Petronelli runs a U Conn master's program for Master Recyclers
  - Students have to do volunteer hours after certification—we could recruit one
- Food waste hierarchy: composting not the place to start; regular recycling program is not up to speed—need to organize that first.
- Need education process to help citizens understand why recycling important.
- Backyard composting should come first.

- Need community education; need partner on this
- Subsidized bins, so very cheap for community
- Council could write grant; find partners to enact program (Uconn, NH Land Trust, Common Ground, Master Recyclers)
- Community gardens as possible sites
  - Needs careful management
  - Work-intensive
- Schools as possible sites
  - Need to educate kids if really want to move the city—get them interested in composting first.
  - How to operationalize in school district?
    - One child in each class; one to represent entire school
    - Green Challenge: have classrooms compete
    - CT Resource: [Food Waste Mapping Project](#)
    - St. Martin’s is doing a garden—next step is composting; Barnard composts now for their garden.
    - Talk to Tim Cipriano about piloting at Sound School; create “Compost Ambassador”
    - Difficult to do in schools:
      - Where does money come from to deal with entire process (plate to compost pile). Schools have no money. Who would do the work?
      - Not enough adult supervision in lunchrooms, so food separation at meals is problem
      - Custodians must be on board or won’t work
- Look at other cities’ success stories: San Francisco, Indianapolis and other cities comparable in size to NH started with backyard composting. Could use their models. Indianapolis used something from University of North Carolina
  - CPTV does educational programming; could do composting spot. Diana knows someone who films for them.
- Our role: provide resources to Mayor’s office and Board.
  - City no longer has recycling staff.
- Two short-term objectives for Council to pursue (long term is composting city-wide):
  - Build network of those interested
    - Commercial composting—restaurants send to New Milford
    - Signage: “New Haven composts”; with FPC logo
  - Backyard composting
- Our first steps:
  - More discussion on this at next meeting
    - Create plan
    - Approach city
  - Look for grants; contact Mark Winne (North American Food Security Council) for ideas
  - Approach community gardens/New Haven Land Trust?

### Elm City Coop

- 360 State St. location—developer planning a coop there—creating community advisory board so respond to needs of wide cross-section of NH.
  - Using Burlington model
  - Member owned, but can shop if not member as well
  - Natural foods and full service grocery, also specialty items
  - Affordable, basic foods
  - Should be WIC certified

- Structure, function etc. to be determined by advisory board
- NHFPC should be represented (Frank and Tagan both invited to be on it)
- Advisory board needs to have local farmer

### NH Health Matters Commission

- New commission convened by Director of Community Services Dr. Chisara Asomugha, to
  - Create vision of healthy New Haven
  - Use local data to prioritize and assess health issues, policies and practices
  - Engage businesses and community organizations
  - Implement activities to elevate health status
  - Educate and encourage residents to make healthy choices
- Focus on obesity, tobacco and (third)
- Roberta will represent FPC

### Food Systems Map and City Food Policy

- FPC will continue to work on
- Modeled on San Francisco's
- How to proceed
  - From drafts done by intern last year
    - Committee agreed to edit during August hiatus
- Frank will convene meeting on food map
  - Map illustrates what a food system is
  - Could be put on several city websites
- Food Policy
  - Interest in including toy incentive in policy, modeled after Santa Clara CA's toy ordinance
    - Ask Michael to approach Board of Alders on this

### **Announcements**

- Shaw's update: numerous stores interested; Linda Townsend Maier feels confident that they will have someone within 3 months or so
- Common Ground Meeting August 10: by invitation only, purpose to discuss kids and their relationship to food (gardens, local/sustainable, connect kids to where food comes from); bring together community to find gaps, overlaps
- Grant opportunity: Hunger-Free Communities Grant, Federal grant, we have prerequisites to apply. Diana will read it and report back to Tagan. Due September 1, 2010.
- Cook and Care Walkathon: FPC agreed to sign on to support. For four food kitchens in the city. Our logo can appear on tee-shirt. October 14, 2010. We need to check with Mayor's office if endorsement is possible. Council agrees.
- Bioregional group is showing the movie "Dirt" to community organizations and groups
- Bioregional meeting October 22-23, 2010
  - With Speaker: Sharon Astyk
- September 11, 2010 Green Expo
  - Edgerton Park
  - NHFPC could participate

Minutes respectfully submitted by Roberta Friedman

Next meeting: September 15, 2010

8:00-10:00 a.m. Meeting Room Three, City Hall