



CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
1066 Saybrook Road
Haddam, Connecticut 06438

John Guszkowski, President
Judy Rondeau, Vice President
Barbara Kelly, Treasurer
Margot Burns, Secretary

Meeting Minutes

Thursday 04/04/18, 12:00 – 3:00pm
UConn Extension Center / CR RC&D Office
1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT 06438

Board Members in Attendance: John Guszkowski, Margot Burns, Jim Sipperly, Rebecca Andreucci, Rick Huntley, Jim Costello, Justin LaFountain, Lynne Pike DiSanto; Joanna Shapiro, Lois Bruinooge; Judy Rondeau, Rosa Brown, Mark Goetz, Aaron Budris

Board Members not in Attendance Matt Fulda, MaryEllen Kowalewski, Mark Nielsen, Jim Larkin, Francis Pickering, Barbara Kelly

Other: Jeanne Davies, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Andrea Peres, Nancy Alexander

President's Report:

John Guszkowski called the meeting to order at 12:29pm and noted that there was a quorum.

Council Development Workshop:

The 2nd of 2 Council development workshops, *Redefining CT RC&D's Vision*, was held from 12.30 to 2:30 with Nancy Alexander of Lumenance Consulting. Focus items included working on our mission and slogan statements, and necessary steps for recruiting and orienting new board members; board self-evaluation; and term limits. Jim Sipperly, John Guszkowski, Lois Bruinooge, and Lynne Pike DiSanto agreed to form a board recruitment and board building task force. Discussion concerned fundraising, committee and task force structure, and operations of the staff and CEO.

Secretary's Report:

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of 3/19/18.

Motion made by: Jim Costello

Seconded by: Justin LaFountain

Voted: Motion passed. Abstentions – Judy Rondeau, Joanna Shapiro, Lynne Pike DiSanto

Tour Des Farms Report and Sponsorship Assignment:

Tour des Farms Andrea to email the board standard info, links to the website, and electronic copies of the sponsorship forms. Jeanne as part of partnership is sharing the sponsorship funds with our non-profit members. Can discuss further with folks offline.

CACEE Project Update – Conway School of Design:

CACEE tour with Conway School of Landscape Design students on April 17, 2018 at 11am to tour the Scovil Site in Higganum, CT. Jeanne attended the Haddam Scovil Building Committee Meeting.

Jeanne doesn't believe we need an April meeting but we need a committee in addition to the Executive Committee to meet on April 17th to discuss budget, nomination committee, and annual meeting awards and details. Executive Committee needs to meet and decide about staffing levels based on budget allocations.

Annual CT RC&D Meeting & Awards

Annual Meeting June 13, 2018 at Allen Hill Farm in Brooklyn, CT. Jeanne is working on speakers for Rural Lands / Rural Towns conference in conjunction with the CT RC&D 50th Anniversary. CM credits will be available through CCAPA for planners. Awards discussion, does the board want to keep a large number of awards or narrow it down to just a select few.

Agricultural Programs:

Amanda updated the board on the Compost Heat Recovery Project Open House at Collins Powder Hill Farm in Enfield, CT on March 29th with 50+ people attended and both Dept. of AG and DEEP Commissioners attended. CFEP is assisting 7 farms in the spring round of USDA REAP grants. CFEP recently received a 2,500.00 donation from Co-Bank on behalf of their director Benjamin Freund. CT RC&D will accept this donation and memorialize it on behalf of Peter Orr and continue his legacy of sustainable farming with the funds received. Upcoming event on May 4, 2018, ribbon cutting at Bishop's Orchards solar project, the largest CFEP project to date. Working with UConn TV staff to create a CT RC&D program video. CT RC&D is the administrator of the New England Farm Energy Collaborative (NEFEC) and Andrea is currently developing a website for NEFEC with Amanda and partners.

ERT Updates:

Jeanne has recently completed Thomaston ERT Report. Recent requests from several towns including Durham, Guilford, Branford and Bloomfield. Last outstanding ERT was with Deep River and Essex and may surface again. Avalonia Land Trust ERT in Preston resulted in them being able to acquire the property.

Partner Updates:

Partner updates: Jim participated in the New England RC&D conference call spring meeting. They are continuing the association with due collections and election of officers remain the same.

AGvocate meeting hosted by Canterbury AG Commission on March 29th that Lois attended and 30 people attended and a new town has an ag commission.

Jeanne is applying for an EPA EE grant to work with students on nutrient management in conjunction with partners. Andrea gave a grant update on recently awarded grants that include the REDA grant award and a CT Department of AG viability grant.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 3:26

Motion: Jim Sipperly

Seconded by: Judy Rondeau

Respectfully Submitted: Margot Burns, Secretary