



## WINTER MEETING MINUTES

December 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 | Kinderhook Village Hall | 11 AM – 3 PM

**Special Assistant Phil Giltner** opened the winter meeting of the New York State Council on Food Policy (NYS CFP) by welcoming the audience and the Council members. The Mayor of Kinderhook, Carol Weaver, also welcomed the NYS CFP and public attendees. The members and representatives of the NYS CFP then introduced themselves.

### NYS CFP members and/or representatives in attendance include:

- **Linda Bopp**, Hunger Solutions NY
- **Barbara Dennison**, New York State Department of Health
- **Raymond Denniston**, BOCES Broome-Tioga; NYS Farm to School Coordinating Committee
- **Liz Neumark**, Great Performances; Sylvia Center
- **Eleanor Wilson**, Price Chopper Supermarkets, Inc
- **Julie Suarez**, New York Farm Bureau
- **Michael Hoffman**, Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- **Linda LaViolette**, Empire State Development
- **Patricia Race**, New York State Department of Health
- **Lisa Irving**, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)
- **Robert LaValva**, New Amsterdam Market

After member introductions, **Rebecca J. Staehr and Mark Quandt** presented *“Gleaning: From Farms to Food Banks in New York State, An Overview”*. This presentation covered the type of gleaning programs already in existence, what works and what needs assistance, as well as some of the key points from the Cornell report *“Gleaning from NYS Farms to Benefit the Hungry: Overview and Recommendations”*. Some of the actual or perceived obstacles associated with gleaning include farmers being wary of volunteer gleanings due to liability; potential crop damage; need to supervise; potential theft and inefficiency. Additionally, special costs may be associated with donating due to harvesting and packaging, and there are logistical challenges associated with the donation process. An overview of “Glean NY” ([www.GleanNY.org](http://www.GleanNY.org)) was also highlighted. To read the whole presentation, see *Appendix A*.

**Julie Cerny** followed Ms. Staehr and Mr. Quandt with a presentation about the Sylvia Center (TSC). Inspiring youth to discover and embrace good nutrition through direct experiences with seasonal vegetables and fruits, TSC is a garden-to-table educational program based at





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Katchkie Farm in Kinderhook, NY. In her presentation, Ms. Cerny illustrated the curriculum utilized at TSC, such as the doing, reflecting, and applying experimental educational model. This involves the participants in cooking and gardening experiences as an avenue to build knowledge, self-efficacy and the understanding. To view the presentation about TSC, see *Appendix B*.

Next, **David Haight and Glenda Neff** delivered a presentation about Farm to Institution of New York State (FINYS), modeled after the successful Farm to Institution of New England (FINE). Leading up to the newly released final report, “*Scaling Up: Strategies for Expanding Sales of Local Food to Public and Private Institutions in New York*”, FINYS conducted a series of meetings with a multitude of stakeholders. These meetings identified barriers and opportunities associated with the goal of FINYS, as well as identified immediate action items to take place as part of the FINYS materialization. To see this presentation, please see *Appendix C*.

To read the full report, please visit <http://newyork.farmland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/FINYS-Needs-Assessment-10-4-12.pdf>.

Following FINYS, **Dan Livingston and Peter Woo** presented a demo of *Wholeshare*, a website that helps consumers gain access to good quality, affordable local food by organizing group purchases. Sellers on *Wholeshare* range from local farms to small fisheries to regional food distributors; the consumer decides who he or she wants to order from and what items he or she wants to order. For more information about *Wholeshare*, please visit the website @ <http://www.wholeshare.com>.



Next, **Becca Jablonski** (*left*) presented her research from Cornell University, “*Quantifying the Economic Impacts of Local and Regional Food Systems*”. In her presentation, Ms. Jablonski illustrated the need to quantify the economic impacts of local food systems; how researchers conduct economic impact assessments; the definition of a “multiplier”; what studies have been done before; challenges specific to conducting an economic impact assessment of local food systems; and the current research at Cornell. As illustrated by Ms. Jablonski, the motivation for conducting such research includes: “the demand for ‘local’ food is growing and communities want to capture alleged benefits; community economic impacts; farm profitability (particularly small and mid-scale); and health/nutrition”. To read the whole presentation, please see *Appendix D*.

Next, a **Council Member roundtable** took place where, when applicable, each member illustrated updates in his or her organization, ideas on the direction and/or next steps of the NYS CFP:

**Ray Denniston** described that the Farm to School Grant Proposal submitted by himself, **Sarah K. Johnson** and **Tim Pezzolesi**, has successfully been funded by the USDA and is now in implementation mode. As a means of sustaining a Farm to School Program, the proposed grant would consist of a pilot program utilizing Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) and food safety training for farmers and school food service staff, respectively. Mr.



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Denniston also described the new leadership of New York Farm to School, now headed by the New York State Nutrition Association (NYSNA).

**Linda Bopp** illustrated that the proposed Farm Bill cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in New York State are significant and disproportionate as compared to all other states. Further, Disaster SNAP (DSNAP) is now in effect for SNAP participants who have been affected by severe and detrimental weather conditions. Unfortunately, challenges exist, such as eligible participants do not know it exists.

**Patricia Race** stated that the effects of Hurricane Sandy are still penetrating the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) and the Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) in Staten Island and Far Rockaways. She also illustrated that there is now funding for Farm to Preschool and the Just Say Yes (JSY) to Fruits and Vegetables program through the NYS Department of Health.

**Barbara Dennison** illustrated that the NYS CFP Food Procurement Guidelines have been finalized and voted on by the Council, with a unanimous vote stating that the guidelines should be *accepted and recommended* by involved entities; not necessarily mandated. The **NYS Commissioner of Health, Nirav Shah**, commended these guidelines.

Finally, **public comments** adjourned the meeting. Speakers included:

- **Mark Dunlea**, Hunger Action Network NYS
- **Reverend Phillip N. Grigsby**, Schenectady Inner City Ministry
- **Anna Dawson**, Hometown Foods, LLC

*All public comments may be found under the Public Comments heading.*

Preceding the meeting, a beautiful tour of Katchkie Farm, home of The Sylvia Center, was hosted by Council member Liz Neumark.

