

# NYS Community Gardens Task Force Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 12, 2023

12:00 - 3:00 PM

10B Airline Drive, Albany NY 12235, Apple Orchard Empire Conference Room  
Shirley A. Chisholm State Office Building, 55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn NY  
Rural Health Network of SCNY, 455 Court Street, Binghamton, NY 13904  
Elaine M. Panty Branch Library, 820 Tonawanda St, Buffalo, NY 14207  
215 Lyman Hall, Syracuse NY 13210  
57 Myrtle Hill Park, Rochester NY 14606  
201 Pondfield Rd, Bronxville, NY 10708  
115 Broadway, Newburgh NY 12550  
389 Broadway St., Buffalo, NY, 14213  
Virtual via WebEx

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1. The NYS Community Gardens Task Force Meeting was called to order by the Designee of the Chair, Taylor Goodell, *NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets*

## **Community Gardens Task Force Members (In Albany, NY)**

- Chris Anderson, New York Association of Towns
- Yolanda Bostic Williams, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- Lewis Clarke, New York State Department of Health
- Peter Dunleavy, New York State Department of Transportation
- Melissa MacKinnon, SiCM/Schenectady Urban Farms
- Brian Steinmuller, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (Advisory Member)

## **Community Gardens Task Force Members (In New York City)**

- Mark Izeman, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Gerard Lordahl, Grow NYC
- Carlos Martinez, NYC Parks GreenThumb
- Qiana Mickie, New York City Office of Urban Agriculture
- Gabrielle Mosquera, MPA, Teens for Food Justice

## **Community Gardens Task Force Members (In Buffalo)**

- Alexandra LaMonte as Proxy for Stephen Acquario, New York State Association of Counties
- Tim Chen, Grassroots Gardens of Western New York

## **Community Gardens Task Force Members (In Bronxville, NY)**

- Iyeshima Harris, East New York Farms

### **Community Gardens Task Force Members (In Syracuse, NY)**

- Jonnell Robinson, Syracuse Grows

### **Community Gardens Task Force Members (In Rochester, NY)**

- Pamela Reese Smith, Community Gardens for Rochester

### **Community Gardens Task Force Members (In Binghamton, NY)**

- Mark Bordeau, Rural Health Network

### **Community Gardens Task Force Members (In Newburgh, NY)**

- Virginia Kasinki, Downing Park Urban Farm/ Newburgh Urban Farm and Food Initiative

### **Task Force Members (Virtual Due to Extraordinary Circumstance)**

- Emma Phillips, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

### **NYS Agriculture and Markets Staff**

- Deputy Commissioner Nicole Leblond
  - Kelly Young, Director, Agricultural Development
  - Kendall Hough, Program Manager, Agricultural Development
  - Taylor Goodell, Food Policy and Outreach Coordinator, AmeriCorps VISTA
2. Vote on minutes from previous meetings, led by Taylor Goodell
- The Community Gardens Task Force Members reviewed the proposed minutes from the meeting held on October 14, 2022.
    - Chris Anderson, New York Association of Towns, made a motion to adopt the minutes.
    - Lewis Clarke, NYS Department of Health seconded.
    - The Community Gardens Task Force approved the resolution in a vote of 14 yeas to 0 nays, and 0 abstains by voice vote.
  - The Community Gardens Task Force Members reviewed the proposed minutes from the meeting intended to be held on March 13, 2023.
    - Chris Anderson, New York Association of Towns, made a motion to adopt the minutes.
    - Melissa Mackinnon, Schenectady Urban Farm seconded.
    - The Community Gardens Task Force approved the resolution in a vote of 14 yeas to 0 nays, and 0 abstains by voice vote.

### 4. Discussion around Community Gardens

Taylor Goodell, Kendall Hough and Kelly Young led the Community Gardens Task Force in a discussion responding to questions to develop actionable solutions around recommendations following the 2023 report. This group was moderated by Kendall Hough and Taylor Goodell.

5. Presentation on Critical Environmental Areas by Daniel Whitehead, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
6. Taylor Goodell adjourned meeting at 3:00 pm.
7. Next meeting date TBD.