

New York State Community Gardens Task Force Meeting Minutes

November 1, 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
Bronxville Library, 201 Pondfield Rd, Bronxville, NY 10708
Elaine M. Panty Branch Library, 820 Tonawanda St, Buffalo, NY 14207
57 Myrtle Hill Park, Rochester, New York 14606
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233
144 Eggers Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244
389 Broadway St., Buffalo, NY, 14204
Online via WebEx

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LAW §103(e)]

1. The NYS Community Gardens Task Force Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Commissioner Ball, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
2. Roll Call: It was determined that the quorum was met by in-person attendance in Albany and other publicly noticed locations.

Attended in Albany Office

- Lewis Clarke, New York State Department of Health
- Peter Dunleavy, New York State Department of Transportation
- Chris Anderson, New York Association of Towns
- Yolanda Bostic Williams, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- Amy Klein, Capital Roots
- Melissa MacKinnon, Schenectady Urban Farm
- Brian Steinmuller, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee (Advisory member)

Attended in New York City Office

- Carlos Martinez, NYC Parks GreenThumb
- Mark Izeman, Natural Resource Defense Council
- Gerard Lordahl, Grow NYC
- Gabrielle Mosquera, Teens for Food Justice
- Kwesi Joseph, Cornell Cooperative Extension: Brooklyn
- Miriam Dalaei Fondera, Edible Schoolyard
- Qiana Mickie, New York City Office of Urban Agriculture

Attended in an alternative location

- Jonnell Robinson, Syracuse Grows
- Tim Chen, Grassroot Gardens of Western New York
- Iyeshima Harris, East New York Farms
- Laura DiBetta, on behalf of Katherine Petronis, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Alexandra Regan on behalf of Stephen Acquario, New York State Association of Counties
- Pamela Reese Smith, Community Gardens for Rochester
- Emma Phillips, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

NYS Agriculture and Markets Staff

- Commissioner Richard Ball
 - Deputy Commissioner Nicole Leblond
 - Kelly Young, Director, Agricultural Development
 - Kendall Hough, Program Manager, Agricultural Development
 - Megan Haggerty, Program Manager, Agricultural Development
 - Taylor Goodell, Food Policy Specialist
3. Welcome and Introductions from Commissioner Ball
 4. State Updates from Kendall Hough
 5. Review of Minutes from the previous meeting, led by Kendall Hough.
 - a. There were no objections to the minutes.
 6. Presentation on Land Trust Models by Catherine Hall, *New York Restoration Project*
 7. Presentation on Conservation Easements by David Behm, *NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets*
 8. Presentation on Soil & Water Conservation Districts by Nick Rowell, *Warren County SWCD* and Brian Steinmuller, *NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets*
 9. All Group Discussion
 - a. Taylor Goodell 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.
 - b. For a detailed overview of this discussion, please view the recording of this meeting posted to the NYS Agriculture and Markets website here: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/community-gardens-task-force>.
 10. Closing Remarks from Commissioner Ball
 11. Commissioner Ball adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.
 12. The next meeting will be held January 4 at 12:00 p.m.