

## Cumberland County Food Security Council Meeting notes

Thursday, February 11, 2016, UME Cooperative Extension, Falmouth

Attending:

Mary Turner, Kathryn Sargent, Ashley Edmondson, Stephanie Gagnon, Kathy Savoie, Clara Whitney, Craig Lapine, Richard Rudolph, Kate Gustafsen, Bethany Beausang, Jim Hanna

- Reviewed agenda and why we are here

Jim asked that we consider Council membership for the Locker Project:

<http://mainelockerproject.org>

Consensus was unanimous for adding them as members and quorum was reached with affirmation prior to the meeting by Stuart Leckie, Caroline Paras and Dawud Ummah.

- Council members discussed current projects in the context of the question: How can CCFSC strengthen your current work?

The discussion affirmed the Council's current shared efforts and overlapped into discussion of the next agenda item on strategic priorities. CCFSC should continue to focus on the advocacy issues we have been working (CNR, economic justice and senior nutrition) and related efforts, e.g., Full Plates Full Potential. We should continue to take a proactive policy approach staying out front with a vision for food secure community. The events being planned (Cumberland County Food System Summit and Feeding the 5000) will raise CCFSC's profile while raising public awareness about food security and engaging the community. Everyone is benefiting from the networking that happens at meetings and the advocacy awareness that results.

Still seeking tangible projects that engage multiple members and are consistent with our shared goals. Council members appreciate the productivity of getting work done at meetings.

- Discussed survey responses about CCFSC strategic shared activities.

There is agreement we can be more strategic in raising public awareness about food security, especially making sure we use consistent statistics we all agree on. There is a gap in that there are few, if any, shared measures we are using to demonstrate our communal efforts. Jim did note that he will be sharing the work CCFSC did toward a shared pantry database system with Feeding America who is developing a national project with similar goals. Good Shepherd will apply to be a pilot site of that project.

There is a current recognition among key players in the food system that the consumer voice is missing as we work to increase food access. Efforts are coalescing through the Maine Food Strategy: Healthy Food for All subcommittee which includes a number of Council members and others working to engage people struggling with limited income in building food security.

- Confirmed dates for 2016 meetings

The Council will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30 am.

(Please add the following dates to your calendar)

Council: 4/14, 6/9, 8/11, 10/13, 12/8

CCFSC Leadership Team: 3/10, 5/12, 7/14, 9/8, 11/10

Cumberland County Food System Summit: May 19, St. Joseph's College