



Mission: To sustain and support our community through collaborations that put experience and research to work.

Vision: Honoring the past, preparing for the future through: life-long learning; sustainable agriculture and natural resources management; healthy adults, youth and families; engaged communities.

APPROVED at the 11/14/2023 Board Meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 17, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.

Lakewood Vineyards

4024 NY-14, Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Attendees: Chelsea Stamp, Howard Cabezas, Paul Bartow, Rick Reisinger, Riqui Hess, Sarah Agan

Excused: Chad Hendrickson Kristin Van Horn, Mark Rondinaro, Mark McCullouch, Michael Lausell

Staff: Mel Schroeder, Virginia Montopoli

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:02 pm by Paul Bartow

Public Comment -- None

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from the September 19, 2023 meeting made by Howard Cabezas; second by Chelsea Stamp. **Motion unanimously approved.**

Prior Business

- Annual Meeting

Hop Notch Brewery is not available November 7, 2023. November 6th is an option with them, food trucks and seating is fine. Grist Iron and Hotel Laurel are a possibility. Mel will follow-up with both. Paul will meet with the speaker tomorrow to go over details (e.g., presentation length, AV needs, and honorarium level). Bring back pie palooza depending on space.

- Constitution

Updates to our constitution were completed and returned to Sarah Agan. The Constitution through an Adobe template was released today; our updates will need to be added to this version. If we made changes in an unchangeable field, we need to highlight it and Adam Hughes will see what he can do. We should have plenty of time of time to have it ready for the Annual meeting.



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New Business

- Letters of support – State 224 funding
A letter of support was handed out to anyone on the board who wants to sign their name.
- RFA – Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program
Camp renovations would be suitable for this RFA. Cabin renovation on unused cabins, a front porch area, larger deck, gardening and horticulture raised beds would qualify. A mobile vehicle to educate the community on SNAP-Ed, 4-H and the AG program are also options.
Information Item: Mel will attend the Q&A session tomorrow afternoon.
- FLX Gives – November 16 and 17
This year's campaign will be focus around camp, looking to add raised beds, kids herb and fruit gardens, and arrange field trips for kids to connect into our agriculture community. The FLX site opens next week, the link will be shared with the board as well as other groups.

Reports and Updates – WIGO: (What Is Going On)

- *Finance Committee, Howard Cabezas*
No report available because the Cornell bill came in late last week.
- *Mel Schroeder, Executive Director*
At next month's meeting a budget preview should be available, still waiting for appropriation approval from county legislature. We have a weak policy on our financial controls (e.g., credit card usage, missing receipts, and billing from outside vendors). Our current policy is outdated. Working on a new policy for our HR manual.
- *Chad Hendrickson, CCESC Board President*
Paul reported that Chad will be stepping down when his term ends; a new Board president will need to be elected, Paul is considering the position. Before the annual meeting, Board Members should be thinking on whether they are willing to serve in a leadership capacity.
- *Adam Hughes, State Extension Specialist (5 min)*
Mel reported that we been usually able to submit the AR (CCES with the County) and BR (Association and Cornell) but now Cornell has a template. Mel will share a blank copy with Attorney Gateman as it will need approved.
Action Item: Mel to complete by the end of the month.



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- *Governance Committee*, Sarah Agan
No report
- *Legislative Report*, Michael Lausell
Paul reported that the county has done really well this year with the state sales tax. The dilemma is to bring down the tax levy or keep it at a certain number
- *PAC Reports*
Need to revisit and possibly reboot the committees. Adding energy to the PAC would be a discussion at the annual meeting.

Next Meeting: November 14, 2023, 5:00 pm at Lakewood Vineyards Winery, 4024 NY-14, Watkins Glen.

Motion to adjourned at 6:12 pm made by Rick Reisinger; second Riqui Hess. **Motion unanimously approved.**

Submitted by Virginia Montopoli on November 8, 2023.