

DRAFT

**Inter-agency Food & Nutrition Policy Advisory Council Meeting
Minutes
(IFNPAC)**

DATE: January 27, 2016

TIME: 3:00 – 4:30 PM

**LOCATION: Room 300, Rhode Island Department of Environmental
Management**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS: Janet Coit, Director, Department of
Environmental Management (DEM); Nicole Alexander Scott, MD,
Director, Department of Health (DOH) (represented by Anna Novais,
DOH for first half of meeting); Allison Rogers, designee for Michael
DiBiase, Director, Department of Administration (DOA); Kim
Nikolaidis, Department of Human Services (DHS); Stephen Carey, RI
Department of Education (RIDE)**

**ATTENDEES: Ken Ayars, DEM; Rose Jones, DEM; Joe Masino, DEM;
Bevan Linsley, Island Community Food; Nessa Richman, Farm to
Institution New England; Thai Ha-Ngoc, Henry P. Kendall Foundation;
Sarah Kelley, Island Foundation; Leo Pollock, RI Food Policy Council;
Jesse Rye, Farm Fresh RI; Karen Dalton, RI Academy of Family**

Physicians and Dare to Dream Ranch; Newell Warde, RI Medical Society; Ken Payne, RI Food Policy Council; Chris Ausura, DOH; Ann Barone, DOH; Andrew Schiff, RI Community Food Bank; Michael Bonneau, RI Department of Corrections (DOC); Christine James, The John Merck Fund; Courtney Bourns, Henry P Kendall Foundation; Isabella Cassell, Social Enterprise Greenhouse.

Director Coit called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm and provided an update on current events and plans on food related issues, including that the Governor has authorized the establishment of a “Director of Food Strategy” position within state government which will be funded philanthropically the first two years and posted in the near future. This position will be imbedded within the Director’s Office of DEM and reporting to the Governor’s Office, and be responsible for developing a Rhode Island Food Plan in concert with IFNPAC, Commerce RI and stakeholders. Director Coit also updated that the recent Brookings Institute economic report for Rhode Island has a significant food focus, and the recently rolled out Senate Green Economy Report also prioritizes local food and agriculture.

1. Approval of October 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Anna Novais made a motion, seconded by Allison Rogers to approve the minutes of the 10/20/15 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comments.

Karen Dalton spoke to the importance of local fresh food to improved health outcomes, and of creating businesses with local food. Karen also raised the importance of the Veteran Farmer Coalition and value of exploring connectivity to local food and agriculture in Rhode Island

3. RI Food Policy Council/RI Agricultural Partnership Update – Ken Payne

Ken Payne informed on several issues included a recent status report on action items identified in the RI Agricultural Partnership Five Year Plan of 2011. The past five years have been a remarkable period of progress in local food, agriculture and seafood as their respective profile and relevance increases and connectivity is realized to economic, health and community vitality. These values are also increasingly embedded in State and Community Guide Plans and requirements. Ken also stressed the importance with concurrence by members and attendees of the importance of goal setting and prioritization for the next five years.

4. Aquidneck Island Food Plan – Bevan Linsley

Bevan Linsley gave a presentation on the developing Aquidneck Island Food Plan, a stakeholder driven non-profit supported effort to develop a comprehensive food plan for Aquidneck Island. Aquidneck Island is a statewide leader on food system thinking and planning and the developing food plan has several goals and elements including mapping food resources, building a communications network, raising

community awareness, creating possibilities for solutions and connecting with community comprehensive plans. An Aquidneck Island Food Summit is planned for either April 2nd or 9th.

5. New England Farm to Institution Metrics – Nessa Richman

Nessa Richman gave a presentation with assistance by Thai Ha-Ngoc on the New England Farm to Institution (FINE) Metrics Dashboard <http://dashboard.farmtoinstitution.org>. The New England Farm to Institution Metrics Dashboard provides at-a-glance information about the impact of the farm to institution sector. Specifically, it shows how the food purchases made by institutions such as schools, colleges and health care facilities make a difference for New England farmers, distributors, and institutional consumers. A growing percentage of institutional food is locally sourced which benefits local economies and producers. FINE is funded by non-profits including the John Merck Foundation and Henry P Kendall Foundation.

6. RI State Food Plan and proposed Director of Food Systems Development

Janet Coit reiterated and expanded on comments at the beginning of the meeting and provided an outline of the goals of the Governor's office to support the growth of the local food sector and increase consumption of local food to support the growth of the State's economy. A component of the effort is to develop a comprehensive statewide food system plan, and in order to guarantee this vision it is necessary that the State provide support for a position dedicated to

working directly with the Governor's Office and all stakeholders to ensure better integration and coordination. A "Director of Food Strategy" position is being created within state government to fulfill that role and will be philanthropically supported for the first two years and then embedded within the state budget.

7. Adjournment

Janet Coit adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.