



**Cabarrus Farm & Food Council**  
**July Regular Meeting**  
**10 July 14**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Members in attendance:

Marcia Brashear, Jessica Castrodale, Trish Cramer, Jim Dudley, Wade Holland, Brenda Johnson, Lynn, MacDougall-Fleming, Emily McKay, Colleen McDaniel, Penny Perkins, Dani Roland, Rene Shuford, Megan Poole Shuping, Dawn Simone, Keila Snellings, Katie Warren

Also in attendance:

Aaron Newton, Jared Cates, Heath Ritchie, Martha Simmons, Jennifer Lambert, Thomas Gentry, Rodger Sellers, Elaine Jones, Ed Ledbetter, Robert Kirk

The Council met at Central United Methodist Church in Concord, NC.

Trish opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and asked for introductions around the room.

The July agenda was adopted, as distributed.

The Council engaged in a conversation about its future. A decision was made and a vote was taken that officially changed the name of the Council to the: **Cabarrus Farm and Food Council.**

This decision should not affect the current, official relationship with Cabarrus County. The Council came to the conclusion that it would be best not to address the current Board of Commissioners and wait until January 2015 to address the new Board of Commissioners to revisit the county's relationship with the Cabarrus Farm & Food Council.



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Before January 2015 the following questions will need to be better addressed.

- Is the CFFC interested in continuing its advisory role to Cabarrus County elected officials?
- Is this the time to evolve the CFFC in a natural way to a more independent organization?
- Would the county consider funding efforts for CFFC efforts in the future?

A discussion regarding the independence of the CFFC included,

Pros:

- Ability to go after funds available as 501(c)(3) a tax-exempt, private non-profit organization
- Ability to speak more freely on topics without officially representing Cabarrus County

Cons:

- Funding
- Meeting Space
- Loss of official, direct connection to the Board of Commissioners
- Liability insurance for a 501(c)(3) Board

Colleen McDaniel provided an update on 501(c)(3) status and the progress made with Charlotte School of Law. Paperwork still needs to be turned in and the wait time could be between 6 and 24 months.

Is there an interest in a future, more formal connection between the Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm and the CFFC?

There was a call to revisit the mission and vision of the CFFC. Given the schedule of the CFFC laid out below it looks like that work might best take place at a retreat in January 2015.



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**Locally Grown** logo belongs to Council. It needs to be trademarked immediately.

There was further discussion about whether or not to consider a formal relationship with county vs no formal relationship with county

It was agreed that the CFFC needs a consistent message to share with the public and the media.

A discussion about funds needed for operations identified the following:

- Liability insurance
- Accounting
- Web-hosting
- Food for events

Several late attendees introduced themselves.

School Gardens Summit conversation began. Aaron and Robert laid out the basic plan for the CFFC to host a School Garden Summit at the CFFC September meeting on 9/11/2014, location TBD.



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A planning team for the School Garden Summit was established.

Rene Shuford (Summit Team Lead)

Robert Kirk (representing / liaison to Cabarrus County Schools)

Katie Warren (Food Coordinator)

Jessica Castrodale

Brenda Johnson

Emily McKay

Colleen McDaniel

It will be important to spread the word about the School Garden Summit to Cabarrus County and Kannapolis City Schools, as well as independent schools and local garden clubs. Need to invite the (1) Cabarrus County Master Gardeners, (2) Char-Meck Green Teachers representatives and (3) any similar groups in Cabarrus County.

An online, free registration system should be set up so an approximate number of guests can be determined. It should be similar to the one used for the recent CONNECT event.

Long Term Hunger Relief Advisory Committee will continue to meet in coordination with the CFFC in the future and report progress to the Council.

Jared Cates provided an update on statewide initiative related to the FPC network. Jared requested CFFC support and participation - members and guests responded favorably. There is a September event that will need a delegate from CFFC.



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There was a discussion regarding CFFC participation at the Cabarrus County Fair. CFFC members voted unanimously against fair participation in 2014.

It was determined that if possible the CFFC needs regular meeting space for the duration of 2014. Email options to Wade Holland.

**Events**

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. CMC Northeast Medical Garden Groundbreaking      | <b>July 16</b> |
| 2. Board of Commissioners Meeting – Public Comments | <b>July 21</b> |
| 3. August CFFC Meeting                              | <b>Aug 14</b>  |
| 4. School Garden Summit (Sept CF&FC Meeting)        | <b>Sept 11</b> |
| 5. October CF&C Meeting                             | <b>Oct 9</b>   |
| 6. November CFFC Meeting                            | <b>Nov 13</b>  |
| 7. CFFC Holiday Gathering (Dec CFFC Meeting)        | <b>Dec 11</b>  |

CFFC encourages membership and supporters to continue to share a positive and forward-thinking message in regards to the work of the Council in spite of recent events.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Aaron Newton