

Minutes: Piscataquis County Extension Association Executive Committee Meeting on 6/11/2018

Present: Members: George McKay, Carole Boothroyd, Richard Neal, Beth McEvoy, Karen Murphy, David Bridges

Staff: Donna Coffin, Sheila Norman, Trisha Smith

- President Beth McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3 pm; George McKay was appointed as timekeeper.
- Minutes of the 5/14/2018 meeting were approved.
- The Treasurer's report was approved.

Program Updates

Highlights of 4-H Program by Sheila Norman and Barb Baker

- **Bake sale** at Tractor Supply on 6/15 to raise funds for the leaders' association general fund. Sheila is looking into youth interest in a **Goat Club**.
- Four Piscataquis County youth attended **4-H @UMaine** on May 18-19, with Ruth H. as chaperone and Sheila as staff. The program is designed to introduce youth to college life.
- Congratulations to The Super Science 4-H Club who came first in their regional **Envirothon** competition, moved on to the states competition and won a second place.
- Planning is underway for the **Piscataquis Valley Fair 4-H**. The 4-H Leaders Association has been granted more room for educational activities in a tent outside the 4-H Exhibit Hall-Bell Building and are anticipating more Club Exhibits from other counties now that they are adding a People's Choice Award. 4-H Silent Auction, held on Friday and Saturday at the fair is currently looking for tax-deductible donations for the auction.
- Congratulations to Rebecca H. who was awarded a Maine 4-H Foundation Post Secondary **Education Scholarship** at the 4-H Annual meeting and luncheon. She will attend Unity College in the fall of 2018.
- Several 4-H members attended listening sessions for the Rural Youth Futures Survey as participants and Steering Committee members: Barb went as staff. The research project, led by UMaine professor Mindy Crandall compares youth aspirations in rural Piscataquis County and Coos County in Oregon. Barb will be attending the meeting in Oregon to teach how to do Ripple Effects Mapping with the Community Capitals Framework in order to identify and create Public and Private Value Narratives.

Home Horticulture Report from Trisha Smith

- Many thanks to Richard for his repair of the irrigation system at the **SEDO school garden** and to Sheila for help with Coast of Maine's donation of compost through Country Junction Greenhouses in Bradford. All the second grades have had an opportunity to work in the garden this year and to harvest lettuce and chive blossoms. Trisha will be at the SEDO garden on Mondays, with produce going to the kitchen. Contact Trisha to volunteer to help.
- Trisha, Barb and Fran streamlined the enrollment paperwork for the **Passport program**. 50 enrollment packets have been distributed; John will give out more at the WIC distribution Wednesday and Trisha will hand out to second graders and at Free Summer Meals next week.
- **Master Gardener Volunteers:** Nancy Matulis is helping with One Tomato™ distribution at WIC, Pat Jones and Karen Maas have landscaped at Central Hall and Pat cares for the alley downtown, Marion Door Park and Will's Shop N Save planters.
- **Worm Bins:** A type of invasive Asian worm has been found in some bins. Jock Robie will be teaching worm bin recipients how to identify the worm and remediate or bins can be turned in to Jock. Worm Bin Harvest is July 31 at PHEC at 4 pm.

Piscataquis Activities from Donna Coffin

Donna reports 13 one to one contacts in May-June, including questions on farm business training, getting into the goat dairy business, beef breeding and marketing, garden insects, landscape plant business, community forestry plans and One Tomato™ distribution plans.

Upcoming Programs/Meetings include One Tomato™ distributions at the town office in Greenville, at WIC and at the Whoopie Pie Festival.

- **PCEDC Quarterly Meeting** at Lakeshore House in Monson on June 18
- **Backyard Poultry on Sept. 17 at the Extension Office in Dover-Foxcroft 9:30-noon and 6 -8:30 pm**
- **So You Want to Farm in Maine** is being planned with Aroostook, Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties for training this fall. Live sessions will be at the Bangor Extension Office, with live stream using Zoom and Kaltura technology.

Past Programs/Meetings include an update on One Tomato™ - about 200 plants have been given out along with 153 surveys. 67% of recipients were new to the program and 25% have never heard of UMaine Extension.

Unfinished Business included the sale of 14 office chairs @\$10 each, discussion of a possible Eagle Scout project to build a canopy for shade at the school garden and thanks to Richard for 8 new framed photos at the office.

New Business includes follow up with folks who may be interested in joining the Executive Committee, **discussion of the Annual Meeting** on Nov. 7 at the Commons at Central

Hall, with guest speakers: the new plant pathologist and the new horticulturalist.

- Reminder: July 25-**Tour of Rogers Farm followed by a tour of the Plant, Animal, Insect Lab in Orono with the Penobscot Executive Committee.**
- Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

Next meeting: July 9, 2018 3 pm

Submitted by Carole Boothroyd, Secretary 7/6/2018