

Minutes: Piscataquis County Extension Association Executive Committee Meeting 3/12/2018

Present:

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

Staff: Donna Coffin, Sheila Norman, Trisha Smith

Visitors: Gretchen and Rebecca Huettner

Call to Order- President Beth McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3 pm. Karen Murphy is timekeeper.

Business- The minutes were accepted, with a correction to the date of the February meeting to 2/12/2018. The treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

Presentation by Rebecca Huettner, 4-H member from Greenville Super Science Club

Rebecca shared her experiences from 4-H National conferences she has attended, starting with the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta in November 2017, followed by the Healthy Living Summit and Citizenship Washington Focus in Washington D.C in February 2018 and the National 4-H Conference in Washington D.C in March 2018. Rebecca returned home with new friends and many ideas for community service projects in Piscataquis County.

Program Updates

Highlights of the 4-H Program from Sheila Norman and Barb Baker

- There is one applicant competing to attend National 4-H Conference and/or Congress this year.
- The quilting SPIN club received a donation of two sewing machines to the 4-H program
- Two senior youth and two Cloverbuds presented at the Piscataquis County 4-H Public Speaking Tournament on February 24. Both seniors qualified for the state competition, April 7 at UMaine.
- Ag Week is March 19-23. The GrowME collaboration between Cooperative Extension, USDA and Valley Grange provides an introduction to agricultural education in grades K-3 throughout the county.
- A new 4-H club in Dover-Foxcroft, led by VOLT trained volunteer Adrienne Clark, held its first meeting on March 10 at the Thompson Library.

Home Horticulture Report from Trisha Smith

- Mr. Murray's class is growing windowsill baby greens and planning for their school garden.

- Trisha is in contact with a number of middle and high school teachers who want to incorporate ag/horticulture in their classes. Three FA teachers want tomato plants for their classes.
- The WIC program manager seems positive about participation in the One Tomato™ project.
- On April 6, Trisha is attending a workshop at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens on native alternatives to invasive ornamentals and will help staff the Coop Extension booth at the Flower and Garden Show, April 20-22 at Alford Arena, Orono.

Piscataquis Activities from Donna Coffin

- There were 13 one to one contacts in February-March; email and phone are the most frequent method
- Upcoming Programs/Meetings include **Is Farming for ME?** March 26, 6:30-8:30 at the Piscataquis Extension Office in Dover-Foxcroft with Adult Ed and **Keeping Small Ruminants Healthy** for sheep, goats and camelids with Dr. Caterina Ruksznis at Foxcroft Vet Clinic Barn on April 14. Online registration available.
- Planning for the One Tomato™ program includes a booth at the Black Fly Festival in Milo in June, working with local high school classes and other groups and purchasing cultivars: Sun Gold, Jasper, Esterina and Sunrise Sauce from Kirby Ellis Greenhouse in Hudson.
- Donna attended a two-day session, Farm Business Training, in New Gloucester and will use resources from it in the newsletter and upcoming farming programs.

Unfinished Business

- Discussion of details for the Small Ruminant event: water and snacks need to be provided, office chairs need to be moved to the Clinic Barn. Beth has purchased a microscope that interfaces with a laptop screen to view feces samples.
- Plans to tour Monson and the Plant, Animal and Insect Lab in Orono are postponed to summer/fall

New Business

- Discussion of frequency of Executive Committee meetings-keep monthly for now.
- Two members' terms on the Executive Committee are expiring in 2018. Current members are encouraged to help recruit new members.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm

Next meeting: April 9 at 3 pm at Cooperative Extension Office, Dover-Foxcroft

Submitted by Carole Boothroyd, Secretary 3/26/2018