



# Small and Beginner Farmers of NH State Council Meeting

April 24, 2019

The meeting was held in Concord at the Farm Bureau.

The meeting was called to order by Christine St. Clair at 6:35 PM with a quorum of 4 council members (Kate arrived shortly after).

Present: Christine St. Clair (Leader), Cindy Shea (Treasurer; County Representative), Jess Storey, (Secretary), Tanya Belletete and Kate Kerman (Newsletter Editor; County Representative). Julie Moran (County Representative) called in at 7 pm.

## Secretary's Report

The January Council Meeting Minutes were reviewed.

*Motion to approve January Minutes. Cindy moved/Christine seconded. Approved.*

## Specialty Crop Grant

**SCGB 2017**- Christine - still working on workshops: Marketing I: Richard Wiswall just occurred, Lean Farming by Ben Hartman and one more are coming up this fall.

**SCGB 2018**- Christine - planning workshops; Marketing II, Business Plans.

**SCGB 2019** - Christine - due next Wednesday on growing herbs.

Significant funds are projected to arrive in the next few weeks.

Christine is also working on a Champions Grant. The grant is highly competitive and Christine is targeting the middle level (\$2000) to fund 3 workshops: milking, butchering, raising pigs.

## Treasurer's Reports

Cindy reported: There is \$10,317.50 in the account at the moment. There is also \$880 in Citizens account plus \$1100 transferred from PayPal, which will be added to the account. This is enough to cover bills for the workshops that occurred and other bills that need to be paid.

Discussion continues about changing the state account bank to NECU. Coos and Tricounty would likely be allowed to keep the accounts at Citizens. Cindy needs reports from Carroll. Our accounts are so old that we can't make changes to accounts and it's very frustrating to do business. The one that Henry and Kate are on (Cheshire) probably needs to be closed since it is assumed that Cindy can't be added as a signer. Then a new account can be opened. Kate noted that she and Henry are both signers. Preferred to have 2 signers on each account: someone from the county and the co-leader, but since we don't have a co-leader, the treasurer.

Christine took care of the taxes: The 990 electronic postcard is all that's required because we are under the \$50,000 threshold.

Christine will have an expert set up Quickbooks classifications and Cindy and Christine will provide Tanya, who is coming on board as Treasurer, with the information she needs. The challenging part, of course, is tracking the grants.

PayPal: it was set up a long time ago by a former Treasurer. We can't do several things because we aren't her. Cindy noted we need to change the buttons on the website. Christine is setting up a new PayPal account. It is important to have access to the records in the 'old' PayPal account.

## Committee Reports

### **Equipment Committee-**

Christine reported. She talked to Gail about what to do with equipment not being rented, or that wasn't taken care of and isn't working. We can sell anything from 2016 and older. We need to keep records, and if low value items are donated to a nonprofit, that would be permissible. The Harvest Right - keep one and sell two? One is at Genuine Local in Meredith, one is on Kate's counter, and one is up north (Sandy Davis has it). Harvest Right also came out with a newer model that costs less than ours. Our model is going for about \$1100 online, which is less than half what we paid. Kate suggested putting it in the newsletter so members have first dibs. Julie wondered if we could get people to rent it for 1/2 the price we currently offer (\$25/3 days/2 batches). Christine noted that nobody has wanted to rent them. Motion by Jess to offer for sale at \$1500 but authorized to take less (no less than \$1100), second by Christine. Discussion about cultural views about bartering and value ensued. Motion carried.

The digital farmer market scale is going with the MPU held by Pete and Melanie because the one they had was broken. Christine will check. Kate noted that the MPU she holds doesn't have a scale.

Other equipment to offer for sale: Johnny Seeders: Julie noted it doesn't work on North Country soil. Elaine has it. Julie would be happy to sell it. The two farther south in the state were used, but neither has all its pieces. Some community gardens could take as a donation. Kate suggested offering the purchase to the caretaker. Julie noted that if we can get a better price from someone because it's valuable to them, it doesn't make sense to sell to the caretaker.

We will keep 1 Harvest Right, 4 MPUs, the PTO post-hole digger. The garden items we will put up for sale for the most part. The barrel washers will be offered to the Cheshire Conservation District. One flame weeder is rusted; one is in Coos, and one is in Jaffrey. Christine will look at how much those can be sold for and offer them for sale. The transplanters will be sold; they don't work as well as promised. The 2 honey extractors we will sell: The Beekeepers' Association lends it out for free. The manure spreader: Kate said it needs a part; Julie noted it would be used in the North Country. Christine will email Andy and Sandy; if it needs to be fixed, Coos has folks who can. So, the manure spreader will move to Coos county. We will keep the Pregtone, which several members use. The tow-behind rototiller has been jerry-rigged because a chain was slipping. That will probably be put up for sale as well. The animal transport box needs to be picked up from the former caretaker. The sheep scale and sharpener set, kept by Kate, and sharpener, kept by Christine, we will hold on to. The BCS tiller is with Christine and is being rented out. The final list, with where it is located and how much it rents for, will be ready to go online. Julie noted that rental rates need to be low. Christine will get Kate a list of items with prices for the newsletter.

### **Communications Committee-**

Newsletter - Kate reported that she is hoping to get it out by the end of the weekend. Kate needs information. Ed Chesky sent an article about the grant that Coos got. Kate wants notes and pics from Richard Wiswall, which Christine is going to scan and send Richard Wiswall's presentation to Kate. Christine will send Andre Cantalmo's presentation (Tricounty workshop in April) to Kate as well.

Website - Cindy reported. She showed the Wix website she's been working on. There are a lot of options, it just depends how much work we want to put into it. Cindy will send it around to the most active members for commentary. Cindy also needs to figure out how to get our domain name and the information off the current website manager servers and she would like to give him 60 days notice of cancellation.

We need to figure out the Livestock Program. Kate noted that there is \$700 that was paid into that program. But there aren't any livestock available.

### **County Reports**

**Grafton/Belknap/Merrimack County-** Cindy reported. Hayfield is on target and can probably be advertised more. Christine will write it up for Kate for the newsletter. Andre Cantalmo presented on CSAs and aggregation in Concord on April 16. There are quite a few workshops being planned. There is also discussion of ways to aggregate marketing efforts. Belknap Economic Development Council is holding a

meeting May 1 at 1 pm at 383 So. Main St. in Laconia (next to Meredith Village Savings Bank and across from Vista Foods and Sunflower Natural Foods) about the State school property and putting in the idea of an agricultural center there. Perhaps a commercial cheese kitchen.

**Cheshire/Sullivan/Hillsborough County-** Kate reported that they are having an MPU workshop on May 18. Precise location is TBD.

**Coos County-** Julie reported. Meetings have been held, there is a lot of energy, e.g. posting a lot on Facebook. They would like to do a hayfield project, a Warriors at 45 North project and a turkey shoot (target shooting).

**Carroll County-** Christine reported. Dale Drew is going to hold the MPU. A hayfield project is being explored at the county land that is about 75-100 acres. Christine is writing a proposal to the county, which currently hires people to hay it.

### **Other Business**

**Christine** is organizing some additional workshops, including GAP certification and FSA.

**Strategic Planning-** That's been on hold as council members change over and quite a lot of meetings have been held. The survey is set up and was handed out at Farm & Forest. It has not been emailed out. Next step is to establish a Planning Committee.

**Insurance** - Christine talked with Steve Forde comparing how much SBFNH pays compared to NOFA. Cross Insurance has come down: \$505 down from \$1100 (D&O); \$872 down from \$2000 (which includes \$350 for the hayfield project). As for equipment, if it were stored at headquarters, we would need insurance. Since it's stored elsewhere, it's not covered and it isn't covered in transit, regardless.

**SBFNH Next Council Meeting** - May 22 at 6:30 PM via Uber conference call. June 26 at 6:30 in person at the Farm Bureau. Then we will have a break until September.

Motion to nominate Tanya Belletete as Treasurer made by Christine, seconded by Julie. Approved.

**Motion** - *Motion to adjourn. Cindy moved/Julie seconded. Approved.*  
Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jess Storey, Secretary