

Waushara Food Connections Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2017
Waushara County Courthouse, Room 25

Present: Mike Coppoletta, Amber Gotch, Patrick Nehring, Auttum Powell, Bruce Rennels,
Zina Soltis

Call to order at 9:00.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Auttum/Rennels to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Soltis/Auttum to approve the minutes from July 21, 2017.

Gleaning

Gotch will check with Gleaning Geezers about the forms and insurance they use. An outline of the process and timeline for this project was developed. A plan will be developed using information from Gleaning Geezers on how to operate a gleaning program. In the winter, farmers who may be willing to participate will be contacted. Gotch volunteered to make the first contact. Local youth groups and others would be contacted in late spring/early summer. Coppoletta and Auttum volunteered to contact youth organizations and others who may be willing to volunteer to glean a field, including 4-H, scouts, FFA, and church youth groups. Initially one farmer will be approached. Flytes was identified as a possible first farmer to be contacted. Other farms may be contacted if more volunteers are available.

The Field to Food Bank program was discussed.

Food Pantry Assistance

The Hancock Research Station will make a smaller quantity of potatoes available for the food pantries this month because they are early harvest potatoes; the skins are thinner so they do not keep as long.

Wautoma and Redgranite Community Garden

No discussion.

Farm stand promotion and accessibility, including using EBT/Quest Card

UW-Extension created a website, <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wilocalfoodlocator/>, to list the locations of farm stands in the county. Committee members are asked to provide the locations of farm stands around the county. Nehring passed out business cards to promote the website.

Farmers' Market at Waushara Community Church

Looking at having a farmers market at Waushara Community Church. It needs to be connected to the churches food pantry. The committee can approach the church when a detailed proposal is developed. Some options discussed are: Volunteers man the food stands. The money from produce sales would go to the farmer. The use of volunteers would reduce their operation cost, so they could offer produce at a lower price. Use of EBT/Quest Cards maybe more possible because equipment and transaction costs could be shared. Local food fair held in conjunction with farmers' market. Advertising options. Sponsorship options. Charging farmers for space could defeat the purpose of lowering the overhead cost to the farmer, so they could pass the savings on to the consumer, the purpose for considering the farmers' market.

Community Food Challenge Simulation

UW-Extension has a food security simulation to help people understand the struggles not having access to food. Looking for sponsors for the training, which would involve committee

volunteers for the simulation. Look closer at this in the fall. Soltis will bring an outline to the next meeting.

Senior Assistance

The Waushara County Commodities Food Pantry will be holding a stock box program for those 60 and older in Hancock and Wautoma.

A Senior Fair is being held at the Wautoma Senior Center on October 7. Booth space can be rented for \$10.

Other Projects

None discussed.

Next Meeting

The Waushara County Prevention Council has asked committees to set a regular meeting date and time. Waushara Food Connections is a subcommittee of the Vision 2020 Committee or the Prevention Council. The last Friday of the month at 9:00 will be the regular schedule for the Waushara Food Connection Committee. The next meeting will be September 29 at 9:00. Motion by Gotch/Soltis to adjourn. Carried.