

Burlington Food Council
Minutes from April 4, 2011 Meeting
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Fletcher Free Library

Attending: Will Robb, Jess Hyman (Friends of Burlington Gardens), Jenn McGowan (Friends of Burlington Gardens), Ed Antczak (CEDO), Allison Nihart, Meg Klepack (City Market), Dan Cahill (Burlington Parks and Recreation), Bill Mares (Vermont Beekeepers Assoc), Diana Orr (Essex CHIPS), Joan Knight (Burlington Co-Housing), Sona Desai (Intervale Center), Jennifer Green (Burlington Legacy Project)

Events

The Food Council is Co-sponsoring Green Drinks and the Farm to Plate Presentation!
April 26 from 6-9pm

Main Street Landing

Green Drinks will run from 6-8. Kit Perkins from The Farm to Plate Initiative will present from 7:30-9. We do have table space available for Food Council groups so bring your promotional materials to the event for display.

Meg will send out promotional copy for the event shortly for calendars, listserves, etc.

Urban Agriculture

The City Council approved the Urban Agriculture Resolution on March 21 forming a task force charged with, “recommending to the City Council a cohesive urban agriculture policy, improved rules and regulations addressing urban agriculture, and steps to better promote and govern urban agriculture in Burlington;”

Will Robb is the Food Council’s representative to the Task Force and will report back at each meeting about their progress.

Will Bennington and Allison Nihart are citizen representatives to the Task Force.

Will Robb will convene the first meeting of the Task Force in April, 2011. Please email him if you’re interested in joining the Task Force at otherwill@yahoo.com

Guest Speaker – Sandrine Thibault

Sandrine presented about the Municipal Development Plan.

The plan is the “40,000 foot view of the city” meaning that it is broad in scale and encompasses the big picture. The plan sets the policy and has the force of law. It is updated every 5 years. The plan contains no specific section on food but touches on food and agriculture issues in various sections (see handouts). However, The Climate Action Plan is adopted as a section of the Municipal Development Plan and has a whole section on food. There is the potential that as we’re developing the urban agriculture report, it could be incorporated as a chapter into the Municipal Development Plan. All agreed we should keep talking.

Announcements

A number of great food and ag events were announced at the meeting. We decided to create a web-based calendar on the Food Council website to allow all groups to submit their own events. Several groups have already been given access. If you would like to be able to post events on the Food Council events calendar, email Meg at mklepack@citymarket.coop.

The Intervale Center will be taking on solutions for gleaning in Burlington and/or Chittenden County. The food hub will be reaching out to the community for what the model could look like. Gardeners' Supply is providing funding and manpower. Contact Sona if you're interested in finding out more.

Next Meeting

With the creation of the Urban Agriculture Task Force, what role should the meetings of the Food Council play? The group agreed it would be good to have various speakers in that would help deepen our understanding of various issues that will come up in the work of the Urban Ag Task Force. For example – Bill Mares could join us to talk about beekeeping and provide a deeper understanding of some of the issues that might arise as we look at policy around beehives in the city.

The next meeting will be held June 6 at noon. Allison Nihart and Will Robb will present their research plan for the Urban Agriculture Task Force. That research plan will then inform the schedule for the remainder of the year.