

Minutes -  
UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers Meeting – 10/20/2017

**Board Members Present:** Matt Barron, John Lee, Ted Wales, Jody Jellison, Deb Phillips, Karen Heymann, Michael Lueders

**Board Members Absent:** Jack Angley, Patricia Bigelow, Ed Davidian, Lynn Griesemer, John Lebeaux

**Observers and Guests:** Ed Bourgeois, Mary Jane Bacon, Charles McColough

**Extension Staff and Faculty:** Dwayne Breger, Joe Shoenfeld, Lynn Adler, Sherrie Guyott, Lindi Sibeko, Lisa Sullivan-Werner, Masoud Hashemi

1. John Lee agreed to serve as Chair in absence of Chair and Vice Chair and called the meeting to order at 9:05. Apologies were conveyed from Paul Catanzaro who had been scheduled to speak but was unable to be at the meeting,
2. Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Jody Jellison introduced Lynn Adler to the Board. Lynn is a biology faculty member and has joined CAFE leadership for a few hours per week in a new role focusing on the integration of work between Extension and research faculty. In her own work, Lynn is currently working on issues related to pollinators and pollinator habitat, work for which she and her collaborators received a \$1M grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture at USDA last summer. Geosciences extension faculty member Christine Hatch is also working with CAFE leadership in a similar role related to extension and research. Jody Jellison provided an update on other news from UMass Extension. Extension leaders recently made a presentation to the State Food Policy Council about the current work and status of UMass Extension and requested that the Council work to have the legislature create a seat for Extension on the Council. She also briefly reviewed recent successful events including: Turf research field day, food safety presentation at recent twilight meeting, Extension Entomologist Tawny Simisky's highly successful 'bark beetle training' which drew participation from across the country, the second year of the CAFE Summer Scholars Program. She also mentioned that CAFE is currently engaged in making information /promotional videos on four topics, two in Extension, two in research.

Ted Wales commented that he does not think Extension gets the credit it deserves, despite the benefits to the state. Jody commented that there is not recognition of the value-added services we provide. Mike

Lueders noted that at discussions with the joint agriculture committee, chair Anne Gobi asked whether Extension helped people make decisions about controversial pesticides. Jody commented that without additional resources, Extension cannot provide those services. She said that the state calls on Extension to help individuals with issues such as pollinator health and energy and there are things we can and should be doing but we need financial help in order to be able to do so.

4. Jody reviewed upcoming events and conveyed greetings to the board from Dean Tricia Serio, and her interest in attending a future meeting.
5. Extension assistant professor of nutrition Lindi Sibeko discussed her program of integrated research and extension focused on improving health outcomes of low-income and ethnic racial minority women and children. Her work is focused in high priority public health areas, including maternal and child health and childhood obesity. She discussed a research project with Kathleen Arcaro, professor of veterinary and animal sciences on the role of increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables in reduction of cancer markers in human breast milk. She also discussed a planning grant from CAFE enabling a meeting and discussion of collaboration with Extension in other New England states.
6. The three Extension program directors present, along with Joe Shoenfeld speaking for Kathy Carroll, reported on news, accomplishments and challenges for each of their programs. Sherrie Guyott gave special mention to the 4-H Babysitting Program. Dwayne Breger discussed the new state solar incentive program that includes provisions for solar energy-agriculture dual use arrays and the role the Clean Energy Extension will play as a partner in the effort. Karen Heymann commented that there is very little data on the impact of dual use solar and hopes that will change. Jody Jellison commented that this seemed to be a case of policy getting out in front of research.
7. In a final presentation of the meeting, Extension professor of agriculture Masoud Hashemi discussed his work with soil health, cover crops and other sustainable practices.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.