

Learning Center Sub-Committee

October 25, 2016

Present: Representatives Mark McConkey, Ed Comeau, Glenn Cordelli, Lino Avellani

Absent: Representative Tom Buco

Guests included Steve Knox and members of the Commissioner's Farm Advisory committee, Representative Ticehurst, Commissioners Sorensen and Babson, and staff of NHTI Community College.

Rep. Cordelli opened the meeting at approximately 7 pm at The Community School in South Tamworth.

Ms. Lianne Prentice, Director, welcomed us to the school. She explained that the school is a private school for grades 6 through 12 with a college prep focus. It is on the former Perkins Farm and has over 300 acres and a certified organic farm. They view the property as an educational facility and attempt to look at the needs of the region.

The school operates with just one full time staff person (Ms. Prentice) approximately 20 part-time staff.

Several students made an informative presentation on projects they were working on including rotational grazing for soil regeneration, community composting, and researching bioshelters.

We next had a presentation from Professor Tracey Lesser of NHTI in Concord. She explained their new Sustainable Agriculture certificate program and that it includes accounting, business plan and loan application aspects. They also run a non-profit farm on-campus for refugees who get a plot on which to grow crops.

Professor Lesser introduced Trish Dionne, their Director of Online Learning. She discussed the online courses that are part of the certificate program – accounting and marketing. She also mentioned the start and running start programs that would allow high school students to gain college credits. The possibilities for The Community School were discussed as well as the possibility for online courses at a future Carroll County Agricultural Learning Center. Also discussed was the possible partnership of Carroll County with NHTI and a tailored certificate program to the challenges in our area.

Ms Prentice wrapped up the meeting with further information about the challenges of a small private school including publicity and marketing.

The meeting as adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Glenn Cordelli

Opportunities

- Expanded agricultural programs/workshops for commercial growers and homeowners
- Expanded garden programs with Master Gardeners
- Coordinated programs with Culinary Academy
 - Food to table
 - Food safety
- Coordinated programs with Mountain View Culinary Academy and local Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs
- 4-H programs
- Coordinated community garden with volunteers & possibly Co-ops
- Twilight meetings for commercial growers
- Forest management programs – Thompson School?
- Civil Engineering workshops
- Prisoner programs that focus on education, rehabilitation and community service – Grafton County?
- Programs such as tree and plant id for families and/or summer camp youth
- Expanded agricultural research w/ Coop Ext and College of Life Sciences & Agriculture
- White Mountain CC - Environmental Science?