

**GMCEI – AG TASK FORCE**  
**Minutes March 26, 2018**

Present: Lise Anderson, Asher Nelson, Barrie Bailey, Ross Conrad, Jon Turner

Lise volunteered to take minutes

Discussed the purpose of the relevant groups research: purpose of the research is to educate Task Force members re. history and current relevant activities; who are local leaders, resources, groups with influence, and policy movers and shakers.

Task: Develop an Excell data base with very basic information (listing) that can be easily checked for internal Task Force purposes. In particular we are interested in successes and history that may inform our work (don't want to waste energy). For now, files stored in google drive folder. Upload your short reports there.

Checked In on research process, usefulness, how to store information - Google Drive

Discussion about how to develop a framework for a rating system for an agricultural climate "hero" similar to: (Lise added)

LEED certification <https://new.usgbc.org/leed>

Hotels: <https://www.cloudbeds.com/articles/eco-friendly-hotel-certifications-overview/>

Fair Trade: <https://www.fairtradecertified.org/business/standards>

Or any prize based award involving an application and specific award criteria.

What PHASE are we in right now? Research and project development and design  
Develop the basic steps of framework – what documents and source data will demonstrate/qualify the farmer/farm as a Hero.

Explore similar programs – Rodale? <https://rodaleinstitute.org/category/in-the-community/opa/> Agency of Maine Agriculture <https://extension.umaine.edu/beginning-farmer-resource-network/home/beginning-farmer-conference-2018-agricultural-trades-show/>

1. Develop a survey that includes categories and terminology for our "Hero" program
2. Use survey to interview farmers and "thought leaders" regarding measures (categories and levels)
  - Further identify categories with farmers
  - Develop draft and trial with a few farmers as a discussion opportunity and "focus group" document themes and key issues
3. Draft framework based on revised categories and concerns, themes, issues

Discussed the Google docs and drive functions. Collect information there, Asher suggested numbering meeting folders and naming general folders re. project (survey, etc.)

Reviewed templates of related groups (associated organizations)

UVM Extension – Ross  
Center for Sustainable Agriculture – Barrie  
Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition - Ross  
Addison County Veterans Network – Barnaby (Asher read)  
Rural Vermont -Jon  
NOFA – Jon  
Soil4Climate Lise

Did not get to:  
Brainstorm List of Local Farmers (15 minute)

Next Steps, Action Items + Homework Planning

Jon is holding a farm tour and party related to renewable energy and regenerative farming that is a collaboration with Sun Common. Saturday evening. 5-9 p.m. DATE?

This would be a good opportunity to “survey” some sympathetic farmers and interested community members for our draft framework development.

Upcoming hearing Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Town Offices about solar array at Middle Road Old Halladay Road solar array. They need language for the formal MOU re. habitat, regenerative practices such as growing a shade tolerant understory., pollinator gardens and silvoculture.  
Next Meeting Monday 4/9 at 6:30 PM.

Next Time Agenda:

- 1) Review minutes and agenda
- 2) Review Mission and vision and deliverables
- 3) Brainstorm survey domains (topic areas) and assign homework to develop questions
- 4) Report on a few more organizations and how relevant to this project
- 5) Assignments
- 6) Adjourn