

Minutes



Chair: Derwyn Armstrong
Minute Recorder: Alexandra Colby
Date: Thursday November 27 2025
Time: 930-1130AM
Location: Civic Centre Room 212

Attendance: **Alexandra Colby**, Allison Heavens, **Derwyn Armstrong**, Evan Rogers, **Jacques Tetrault**, **Jennelle Arnew**, Kim Sonneveld, Mike Buis, Morena McDonald, Nathen Dube, **Renee Geniole**, Rosemarie Montgomery, **Sharmini Balakrishnan**, Susan Fulmer, Taylor Merritt, **Derrick Leclair**, Karen Green, **Tasha Rugless**, **Erica Bennet**, **Sherri Gray**

Guests: Amy Ostropolec, Huda Oda

Regrets: Polly Smith, Carmen McGregor, Allison Heavens

Agenda Item	Discussion	Person bringing forward
1.0 Land Acknowledgement	<p>CKPH Land Acknowledgement with CKFPC addition. Members are encouraged to add a statement to make it personal.</p> <p>“The area now known as Chatham-Kent is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy: the Odawa, Potawatomi, and Ojibwe. The Lunaapeew also inhabited these lands at the time of the written treaties. We also acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples who travelled these lands before the written treaties.</p> <p>Today, Chatham-Kent neighbours the Lunaapeew at Eelūnaapèewi Lahkèewiit, also called Delaware Nation at Moraviantown and the unceded territory of Bkejwanong, Walpole Island First Nation. Chatham-Kent continues to be home to diverse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.</p>	Sharmini

	<p>Chatham-Kent is covered by Treaty 2: The Detroit Treaty of 1790; Treaty 7: Sombra Township Treaty of 1796; and Treaty 25 : Longwoods Treaty of 1822. We also recognize that this region is subject to earlier Wampum agreements like the Two Row Wampum and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum. As beneficiaries of these Treaties, our responsibilities include collective responsibilities to the land and water.</p> <p>When settlers came to this land, they created a legacy of inequities that have, and continue, to impact the health and well-being of Indigenous People. We acknowledge the importance of the land and environment in establishing and sustaining optimal health, and we will strive to respect this land as we undertake our work.</p> <p>The Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council’s mission is to lead in the development of relevant policies and to advocate for our local food system. But we can’t do this without considering that food systems for Indigenous peoples have been and continue to be disrupted by colonialism. As treaty people we have a commitment to advocate for Indigenous Peoples' rights as it relates to food systems and to work with Indigenous Peoples to improve our food systems.”</p> <p><i>New addition to CKFPC land acknowledgement (will discuss this later in the meeting)</i></p>	
<p>2.0 Introductions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Derrick Leclair - Guests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Amy Ostropolec o Huda Oda 	<p>Derwyn</p>
<p>3.0 Organic Waste Diversion Program/Backyard Composting Workshop</p>	<p>Update on council report and discuss with ckfpc how we can support with education and promotion of this program and/or can bring motion to council via Carmen</p>	<p>Huda Oda</p>

Huda and the Organic Waste Diversion Program came and presented to us about a year ago, but the program was in the early stages. For brief overview of their progress; See the slide presentation. They completed a study - How much people generate garbage at the curb (80% of CK pop), non-curb side (20% of population). Also was interested in what's in the garbage - what's organic and patterns and trends (See Slide Presentation for results). They have a depot, but not everyone has access to or needs to use it. Organic Diversion Rate is 39% so we are not reaching our criteria of 50%. Huda introduced their recommended program of Composter Program, Curbside Collection and a Food Waste Hub Pilot. Communities in CK have different L&Y services throughout, and want to have a CK standard. 2026 Waste Guide & Calendar is printed - with an ad for the composter program.

- *Jenelle asked if someone could not use services in Harwich if they were not from Harwich - but Huda says they can use it still for a fee*
- *Jacques - Discussed dog waste in compost in which Huda said that its mostly ok to put in compost because compost heat can get to the boiling point. So as long as it gets there, its ok?*
- *Jennelle asked if they are planning education sessions. Huda said they have done some in the past, and are planning for posters and radio ads, but don't have a serious education session plan.*
- *Sharmini - CKFPC years ago did a composting push a long time ago (10 years ago)*
- *They need more council support for composting efforts, and community interest to do a lot.*

CKFPC to be aware of composting education coming soon from municipality.

4.0 Presentation on Student Nutrition Programs
15 minutes

- *Provincially funded nutrition programs for student nutrition, using a shared model with community and private donors or parents' fundraising. Several priorities of the program and they have a gold standard program and striving for schools to attain it, and*

Amy Ostropolec

	<p><i>working with public health for workshops and resources. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is a big component of it. Able to onboard 4 new schools, only one school in CK now is not (please see slide presentation for number stats). Community Partnership Committee (CPC) in CK, Collaboration is Key. Our values and goals align with theirs a lot.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Jacques - asking about school systems. Amy says that they are all different, depending on schools - to school-to-school delivery and production.</i> 	
5.0 Approval of Minutes	<p>May and September minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>We don't have a quorum this meeting either, so we will have to approve them next time.</i> - Action: <i>Sharmini to add to January meeting for approval of minutes</i> 	Derwyn
6.0 Actions from past meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretary Role: Thank you to Alexandra Colby for taking this on! - Vacant CKFPC Positions: CKFPC Recruitment now on Municipal recruitment webpage 	Derwyn
7.0 Community Gardens Municipal Motion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report moved to December 15th council meeting - anyone is welcome to attend or can watch online - <i>Derwyn is doing a deputation</i> 	Sharmini/Morena
8.0 Project UPSTREAM - Focus Group at January meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus group planned for January 29th 2026 meeting 945-1045am - <i>Project Upstream - was contracted - 2-year project to prevent extremism and bring together groups, providers and the community. Federal program - CK has been chosen</i> - <i>Food security is a concern for CK</i> - <i>We will be participating in a focus group in January about hate and social division and how that relates to food security with project upstream. (Please note: it will be recorded, FYI, but they are not collecting personal info)</i> - Action: <i>Sharmini will send out the invite.</i> 	Sharmini
9.0 CKFPC Strategic Plan Workgroups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and Reporting progress of Strategic Plan: Workgroup members to report back on their indicators 	Sharmini/All

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action: All members to check out the monitoring and reporting doc- there is a document Sharmini sent and sections for each workgroup to fill out, Sharmini will follow up with workgroup leads 	
<i>Accessibility and Availability</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renee - no report at this time 	Susan, Rosemarie, Polly, Renee, Sherri
<i>Advocacy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New member that will join us- Manseerat is a dietitian at Tillbury family health team 	Allison, Susan, Rosemarie, Carmen, Sharmini, Renee
<i>Education & Awareness</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boys and Girls Club - Waiting on United Way in terms of funding opportunities - Head Chef Kyle Wagner connection - Jacques - is going to start a doc and wine at the Lighthouse Cove. Try to see if he can have a presentation with us. - St.Clair College with their student wellness programs, develop a survey for the new year - Chef program - provided funding to start up a new garden to expand to an existing garden. - CHC - soup and cookie in a jar 	Taylor, Erica, Tasha, Jacques, Derwyn, Jennelle
<i>Local Food Promotion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First meeting discussed local food promotion of farm stands, farmers/agriculture, restaurants via social media posts/photography campaign - Morena's experience with Dresden Night Market can lean on that - Suggestions from members: to connect this to Grown in CK branding, Food Freedom Day in February 	Milke, Alexandra, Karen, Jennelle, Morena, Evan, Derrick
10.0 Roundtable Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Derrick: OFA AGM past few days – great to connect with others; Trevor Jones will be at the AGM for KFA at Retro Suites Dec 18th - Tasha at CK CHC: cooking classes coming up, Tasha shared with members via email - Jennelle: Municipal environmental scan on food strategy; will prioritize action items based on municipal feedback and will connect with ckfpc strategic plan - Derwyn: community gardens almost done for the season; we do composting; hoping to do education at masonic temple garden - Sharmini: Campbell Park community garden water access via municipal tap coming soon; public health approved funding to do this 	All

<p>11.0 Reconciliation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review updated land acknowledgement statement for CKFPC (see 1.0) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Members in agreement of updated version, no concerns raised b. Sharmini connected with Faith Hale (Ska Na Family Learning Centre) at a child youth meeting and they expressed interest in food systems work but their capacity is stretched, need to connect again 2. Review Road to Understanding <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Shared copies with members to review; also linked in previous meeting email b. Action: please reach out to Sharmini if need the link 3. Review how 94 Calls to Action connects to our work - add to land acknowledgement at each meeting and make the connection to our work as CKFPC <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sharmini suggested #57 for us to focus on: “We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.” b. Call to Action 57: A Duty of Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples for All Public Servants (IRA1-V40) - CSPS – 2 minute video on #57 c. Treaty education session provided in past to public and municipal staff <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Action: Sharmini to ask Rebecca (DEIJ coordinator within municipality) if we can have this provided to CKFPC members 	<p>Sharmini/All</p>
<p>12.0 Wrap Up</p>		<p>Derwyn</p>
<p>Next meeting – January 29th 2026 (Action: Sharmini to send meeting invites for 2026)</p>		<p>Chair: Carmen McGregor</p>