

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Suffolk County

Strengthening Families & Communities • Protecting & Enhancing the Environment • Fostering Economic Development • Promoting Sustainable Agriculture

A message from the Board of Directors of the Cornell Cooperation Extension of Suffolk County.

We hope you are safe and adjusting to our new reality. We wanted to let you know the latest status of our Executive Director search results and next steps. In November, we convened a formal search committee made up of members of the Board, program advisory committee representatives and participants from Cornell University as well as our community. We solicited potential applicants individually as well as through mass job sites. We received over one hundred applicants who formally applied for the job.

The good news is that we have completed the interview process and have identified two potential candidates. Unfortunately, the Covid19 situation has put the remaining process on hold for the near term. As a result, the Board has asked Christopher Pickerell and Nora Catlin to jointly serve as the Interim Executive Directors upon Vito Minei's retirement in mid-April.

Chris Pickerell (cp26@cornell.edu) will serve as the Lead Director. He is currently our Marine Program Director/Habitat Restoration Specialist. Chris has been a part of the Association for over 27 years.

Nora Catlin, PhD (njc23@cornell.edu) will serve as the Deputy Director. She is currently the Association's Agriculture Program Director/Floriculture Specialist. Nora has been with CCE of Suffolk County for over 14 years.

We are confident that Chris and Nora will be able to continue to run our Association smoothly and efficiently. We ask that each of you please help them succeed in their new role.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to Vito for his ten years of service to our Association and to the citizens of Suffolk County. His leadership, friendship, and devotion to the community will always be cherished.

We thank you all for your continued efforts to support the community in the safest way possible.

Sincerely,



Mark Cisz
Board President
CCE of Suffolk County