Massachusetts Food Policy Council

Purpose, history and what's ahead

11.10.16

John Lebeaux, Commissioner, Chair

MA Food Policy Council

*Chapter 277 of the Acts of **2010** amended Massachusetts General Law to create a 17-member Food Policy Council to:*

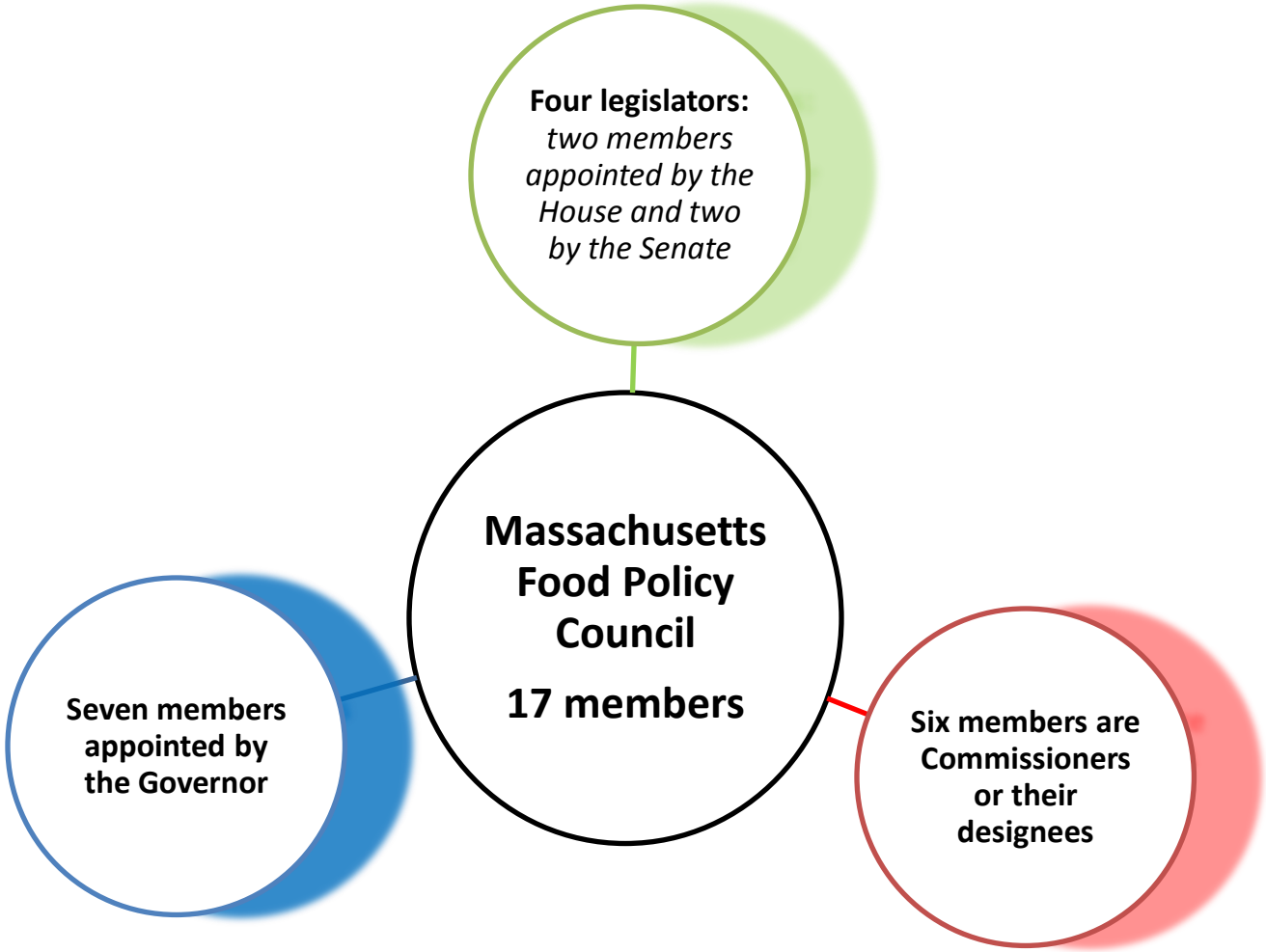
- Develop recommendations to advance food systems for the Commonwealth
- Increase production, sales and consumption of MA grown goods
- Develop and promote programs that deliver healthy MA grown foods to MA residents

FPC Recommendations

Recommendations can include but are not limited to methods that may contribute to achieving the food system goals:

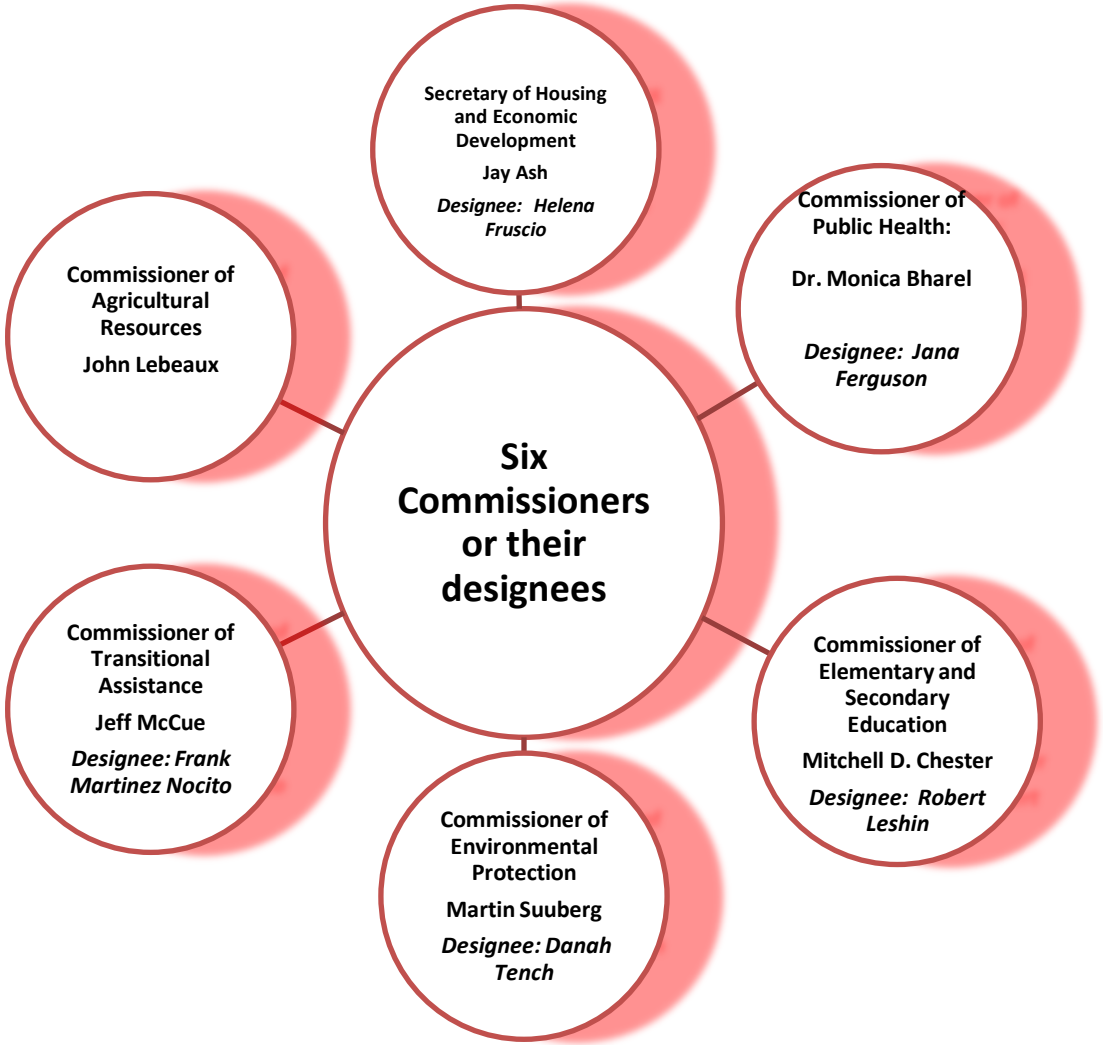
- increased collaboration and communication between state agencies; and state and federal agencies:
- innovative public-private partnerships;
- institutional purchasing agreements;
- changes to state or federal laws or regulations;
- changes in the manner in which state and federal programs are implemented; and
- additional federal, state, local or private investments.

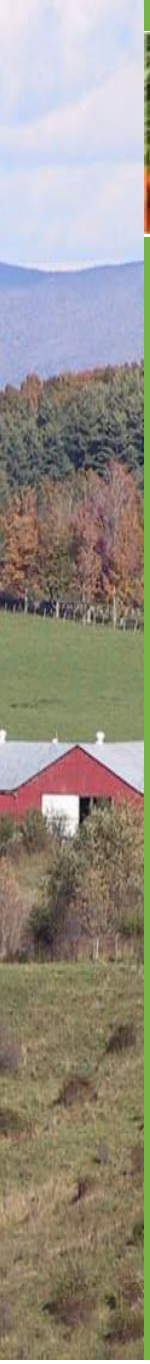
MA Food Policy Council positions



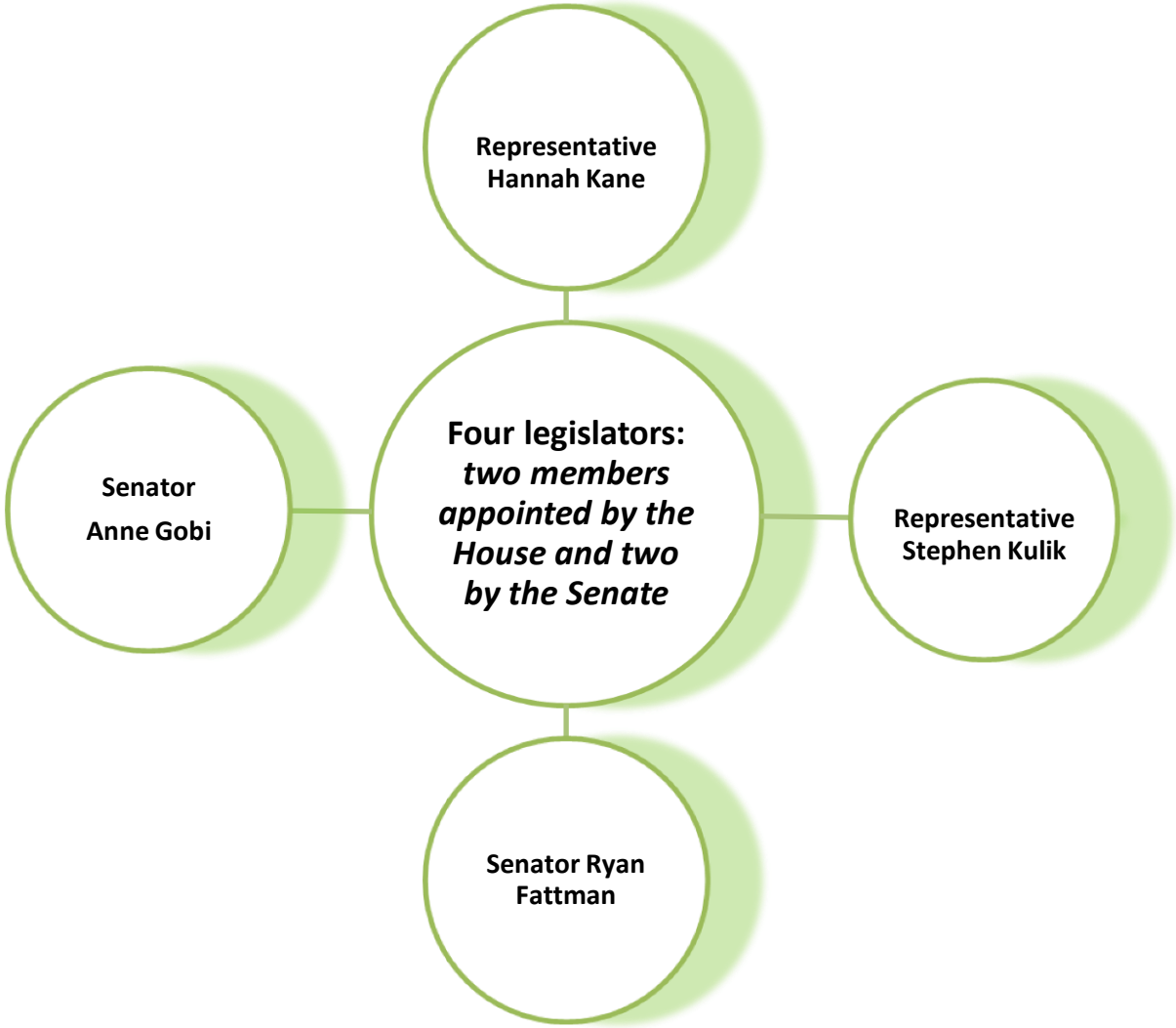
FPC Governor appointed representatives

FPC Commissioner representatives





FPC legislative representatives



MA Local Food Action Plan history

In 2012, The MA FPC developed a plan for a **comprehensive strategic plan for the MA food system,** including authority to act as a fiduciary agent and contract management for a facilitating entity.

An RFR released in August, 2013.

Massachusetts LOCAL FOOD ACTION PLAN

History

A contract was awarded in 2014, for the development of a statewide strategic food system plan, including a focus on local agriculture

An 18 month process followed with wide engagement including over 1,500 stakeholders

Massachusetts LOCAL FOOD ACTION PLAN

History

MA Local Food Plan accepted by MA FPC in Dec. 2015

http://mafoodsystem.org/plan/

Massachusetts LOCAL FOOD ACTION PLAN

MA Local Food Action Plan: identifying priorities

From the 419 page Plan including ten chapters of Goals and Recommendations, FPC members identified Tier I – IV priorities.

Then further whittled down to Tier I and summarized as six general broad goals that we'll discuss today.

Early wins

MA Local Food Action Plan (MA FPC)

MA Food Ventures Program (from the Plan)

- The MFVP, gives financial support to food ventures, sited primarily in or near communities of low- or moderate-income. Completed projects will improve access to Massachusetts-grown, harvested or caught food products through collaborations with local agricultural enterprises and private/public entities.

- MDAR's RFR for the MFVP included a reference to the MA Local Food Action Plan.

Goal #1

1. Support programs that facilitate access to healthy foods for underserved communities with a focus to provide support to leverage the Department of Transitional Assistance's USDA/FINI grant award which will increase use of SNAP at farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets, and for community supported agriculture (CSA) programs, providing fresh healthy food for low-income families, and increasing sales for Massachusetts farmers.

Goal #2

2. Reduce food waste through state programs for farmers, restaurants, processors, and consumers with a focus to support the Commercial Food Waste Ban by developing policies and programs to divert food waste from landfills. Support donation programs, conversion of food waste to animal feed, composting, and the development of anaerobic digestion facilities.

Goal #3

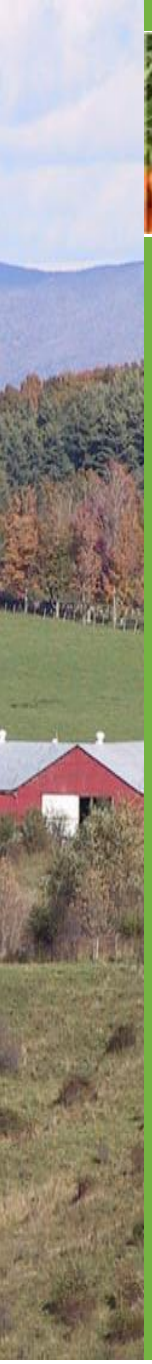
3. Support regulatory policies and practices that allow farms and other food system businesses to thrive with a focus to develop circuit rider positions at regulatory agencies, so that their initial contact with food businesses is in a non-enforcement capacity, in an effort to aid in compliance.

Goal #4

4. Support and grow food system infrastructure, with a focus to better target opportunities for growers, food processors and distributors around access to capital, incentives, and technical assistance though agency partners and programs, private organizations, and universities.

Goal #5

5. Support increased purchases of Massachusetts grown and produced foods, with a focus to increase purchase allowance for local foods for all State colleges, universities, daycare providers, and K-12 schools and increase funding for state agency and institutional local food procurement and develop standardized contract language for all State and municipal purchasers.



Goal # 6

6. Support educational opportunities for farmers and other food system workers, with a focus to support Massachusetts higher education, extension and vocational technical school by developing and offering appropriate curriculum to meet the needs of food system businesses.

Comments

Consider promoting language to add a seat to the FPC for the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Questions & Next steps

What does acceptance of the goals by the FPC mean?

When does the letter get sent to the Governor's office?

How does this translate to upcoming FPC meetings?

What's next?