

Resolution for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County (CCE Erie)

On April 9, 2022, Governor Hochul signed Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 relating to the New York State budget for the 2022-2023 state fiscal year. Included in the bill is an amendment to the Open Meetings Law (OML) to make permanent (until July 1, 2024) the expanded use of videoconferencing by public bodies to conduct open meetings, under extraordinary circumstances, regardless of a declaration of emergency.

CCE Erie has the availability to conduct Board meetings by use of videoconferencing to host meetings. The public may attend meetings in the announced location(s) as previously provided in the Open Meetings Law. Additionally, the public will have access to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and the recording posted for public access within 5 days of the meeting. Any minutes of the meeting will list all members attending in person, and identify those members attending via videoconference.

The CCE Erie Board may allow for remote attendance by its members at locations that do not allow for in-person physical attendance by the public. A Board member may attend remotely providing there is an "extraordinary circumstance." An "extraordinary circumstance" may include one of the following: disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, work schedule, lack of transportation, inclement weather, or out of town. Those members attending remotely will be given the same opportunity for public participation and comment as those in the public meeting, and can vote only if there is a quorum of the board attending in person in a publicly accessible location.

Only members of the board in attendance in the publicly announced location(s) available for public attendance maybe counted for the required quorum to conduct business.

The law does not permit a member to participate by audio only. The member must be seen, heard and identified while the meeting is conducted.

All meetings conducted by videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances shall be recorded and such recording shall be posted or linked to the CCE website within 5 business days following the meeting. Such recordings shall be transcribed upon request.

In case of a declared "State of Emergency" the "in person" participation requirements of the Law shall not apply during the emergency. The emergency may be called by the Governor, County Official or the Town Supervisor.

The above document was reviewed and approved by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County at the regularly scheduled meeting held on July 26th, 2022. A motion was made by _____ and 2nd by _____. Motion was carried and approved.

Signed by President of CCE Erie _____

Date _____