

Meeting Minutes
Emergency Response to COVID-19
April 10 @ 3pm

Liz, Marion Institute

- Agenda items to discuss on today's call
 - State Pier update / refrigeration needs outstanding
 - MDAR update – Karen, SEMAP
 - Intro to Slack – Stan, United Way

Karen, SEMAP:

- Demand on grocery stores is higher
- Eggs – issues with supply chains, i.e. cartons and replacement chickens

Stan Brajer:

- Slack Workspace for the Greater New Bedford COVID Response Corps
 - Use to message and share resources
 - Use different channels based on topics to create conversation threads
 - i.e. #refrigeration issues (&start a conversation)
 - You can use on your browser, desktop or phone
 - There is a food channel to add yourself into

Jim McKeag:

- Spoke with the director of the State Pier
 - The refrigeration does not work (issues with it)
 - Request should be made through the president
 - Decision that will come through the Mayor's office
- Does it make sense to pursue, with other leads?
 - Doesn't seem like it.

Liz/Pam:

- Pam has a lead on additional space for cross stock of food

Scott Stubbs:

- Putting strategy out for Elderly and Low Income
- Partnership with Anchor

Liz:

- Launching the Cooks for Community initiative in Wareham on Monday, April 13th. This will run through May 8th. 100 meals/day, M-F, 4 weeks. This will be servicing elders in need and the unsheltered communities in Wareham. Meals will be delivered to encampments via a van service/elders will be picking up their meals at the Gleason Family YMCA.



- Aiming to get another Cooks for Community program started with Fairhaven Cancer Center patients that struggle financially – working with two NB restaurants
- Working with area restaurants that are making family style meals for Southcoast health workers

Desa:

- RTB partnering with YWCA, NorthStar, and YOU to find local families
- RTB planting 2-3 acres to support 100 families through Summer and Fall
 - Currently working with 20 families
- Access to meat, cheese and vegetables
- Will be doing cooking demos on video
 - 10 people quarantined on site to run programming

- Eva's Garden has reached out and has offered refrigeration truck to be utilized.
 - RTB looking for funds (1-2 people) for distribution from RTB to pick up sites or to people's homes
 - Does anyone need use of a refrigeration truck?

- Shy Brothers
 - Can deliver cheese
 - Is there a way to keep them producing?
 - RTB can act as a processor from 10-20lbs blocks
 - Would be great to get it into catered food

Jim McKeag:

- Spoke with Wendy at United Neighbors Fall River and Kim Smith at the YMCA (community response)
 - Interest in getting meal program up and running
 - Could Boys and Girls club have a role in this?
 - Most vulnerable will be those displaced by domestic violence and homeless that don't have access to walk-in meals program
 - How are distribution logistics happening in New Bedford?
 - Boys and Girls club would be available to open their facility but need to know logistics to do that
 - Walk-in situation?
 - Business to produce meals
 - Juiced Café
 - Java House
 - Willing to keep staff on later if they could be a distribution center
 - 19 Prime (Mesa 21)
 - Harry's Restaurant
 - Also, there may be discounts to frontline workers from several restaurants
 - Would like to reach out to the senior center downtown to check on food access
- Questions around funding to follow-up on

Carl Alves:

- Who has the best inventory for local farms?
 - Liz Kim and SEMAP
- Is there a way to use funds to buy vegetables from farmers to use in the meal programs that are currently active?
- Is there a need for additional commercial kitchens?

Karen:

- Is there a place at universities?

Susan Murray:

- Is there a space at NB Voc. Tech for refrigeration?
- Most farms are seeing quadruple the size of orders
- The farms that relied on restaurants are struggling
- Oysters and Aqua culture organizations
- Desa: Foley fish is hurting

Desa: RTB has walk in coolers run by Coolbot (AC units)

- Has extra air conditioners that could be used for turning container into refrigeration
- Insulated walls in container are best
- Ben at Skinny Dip may have examples or information

Liz:

- Farmers are just starting to produce and are maxed out on supplies and space

Susan Murray:

- Most farms are seeing quadruple the size of orders
- The farms that relied on restaurants are struggling
- Is there a list of farms that were selling directly to restaurants?
- Susan can put out a call to see if farmers are interested in the list server
 - Who's going to order, who's going to pick it up

Carl:

- What is the supply chain that we are building?
- Between PACE, UW, and PAACA they can pick stuff up and distribute
 - Identify who we're serving
- Karen will put a word in for unsourced food from farmers

ADDENDUM: WEEKLY MEETING LOG-IN INFORMATION

Topic: Southcoast Food Policy Council Covid - Response Effort

Time: Apr 3, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Fri, until May 29, 2020, 9 occurrence(s)

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