

Meeting Minutes
August 13 @ 9am

Chat Box Notes are in Italics.

Attendance:

Holly Fowler (Food Systems Consultant):

- We have been drafting the research reports for the first surveys of producer and
- Currently working on the consumer survey
 - o No responses yet in Spanish or Portuguese on the online version
 - o Currently there are about 50 responses – mostly from white women
 - o Some of the responses that stood out are:
 - I have benefitted and enjoyed the What’s Good app that Coastal Foodshed has started
 - Is there a centralized location for finding farmers markets / food banks?
 - When will local farmers markets start up?
 - How do people find out about food sources during Covid times if they don’t have access to the internet?
 - Are there local CSA’s in their area (closer to the city)?
 - Is there a list of food products available online?
 - Folks are asking about roadside stands
 - Increase in education/dissemination about HIP
 - o My takeaway was that farmers markets are enjoyable – people would like them closer to where they are
 - o Responses were anonymous – zip codes were collected

00:11:41 *Victoria Grasela: Mass 211 can direct folks to food pantries if they don't have internet access*

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):

- Working with the senior’s farmers market program
 - o A lot of people are not aware that the farmers markets are open
 - o Last year there was a notecard, if there is one this year, I could help distribute
 - o I did hear from one farmer, and heard that his sales are way down (in New Bedford)
- On the Food Survey, the printed survey was long for seniors to fill out.
 - o If anyone has the budget to print hundreds of copies, I could put them out throughout meal distribution

Liz Wiley:

- The Marion Institute can print those

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):

- I will think about how to distribute these across the city

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- If Coastal Foodshed is not planning to make a farmer’s market pamphlet, SEMAP can make one

Holly Fowler (Food Systems Consultant):

- When people complete their survey
 - o Victoria and Karen, I am taking your links, and adding them to the end of the survey as additional resources

Liz Wiley:

- Everyone on this call, please fill out the survey yourself, and send out to your networks!

Karen Schwalbe:

- We have a template for farmers markets information to share over social media

Pauline Macedo:

- The reason the farmers market has a low turnout, I think, is because of all the new pop ups that are around the city

Wendy Garf-Lipp (United Neighbors of Fall River):

- I also market to people who are part of my network and agency (in my case the most vulnerable people), what other networks are we not reaching?

Liz W:

- We need to make this a goal for the future of the Food Policy Council – having the diverse networks on this call

00:15:09 *Karen Schwalbe: <https://semaponline.org/resources/resources-for-consumers/farmers-markets/>*

Christine Sullivan:

- Seniors read *Senior Scope* religiously, this is a great way to get information out, but only goes out once per month
- I was making a note to ask him to include the farmers' market hours.

00:21:13 *Christine Sullivan: Coastline and NB COA sent the survey out on FB this week*

00:26:22 *Holly Fowler: Thank you everyone, especially for your continued support to reach consumers.*

Liz W:

- We were going to close the consumer survey tomorrow, but I think we need to give it a push for at least another week
- I'll give an update on the Food Finder App

Deirdre Healy (Umass D):

- Starting with data from Christine Sullivan, this project started to put out resources on where nutritious food can be found on the Southcoast, and evolved to be a conduit for saving food resources in the region

Liz W:

- The Southcoast Food Policy Council has taken this on as of this year
- There are two components to the app
 - o The Southcoast Food Finder – super focused on the Southcoast
 - Others exist at statewide scales (both focusing on fresh farm food and food relief)
 - Food Finder is working to combine all of that data and focus on the Southcoast (Wareham to Fall River)
 - It is an outward facing place for consumers
 - I.e. where to find local eggs
 - I.e. where can I use SNAP for veggies
 - We have done extensive research on the data field that should be on the app
 - Recently using consumer trials, with great feedback so far
 - o We are going to be doing a final push to get this up and running in the next month
- The next step will be looking to develop the ‘Food Alert’ portion of the app
 - o This will allow people to be ‘members’ and select what information/alerts they would like to receive when items are available

Wendy Garf-Lipp:

- I just want to re-emphasize the importance of this, when so many large donations of food have not been able to be taken for our community members
- The biggest complaint was the size of the platform when looking through it

Carol (Damien’s Pantry):

- Things are going well
- On the Food Finder there was not yet information on Wareham – I did get in touch with Paul

Liz:

- I will connect you with Portia, to make sure that you get your information to the Food Finder

00:37:18 *pdepina: my email: pdepina@marioninstitute.org*

Christine Sullivan:

- Can I get a list from you about where you have been delivering the boxes from Sid Wainer?

Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford):

- I can send this list to you
- The extension of this program is still in the works
- We are looking to partner with a lot more food pantries
 - o There will be an increase in boxes that have meat, veggies and dairy
 - o This could be a two-year program
- As soon as we hear about this, we will let everyone know

Christine Sullivan:

- Could you reach out to the Council on Aging about this?

Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford):

- They will need refrigeration; they need to be moved within an hour or two
 - o It is fresh food that can't dip below a certain temperature

Sarah Labossiere:

- I reached out to the health inspectors in Fall River, who have not gotten back to me as of yet
- Is there anyone on this call, that might be interested in taking a device to the farmers markets next week to take surveys?
 - o If there was anyone to volunteer to help get these responses, the current capacity is not able to get survey responses
- Our markets are on Tue, Weds, Fri from 2-4

Liz:

- Karen, is this something that you have the capacity to do?

Karen Schwalbe:

- I could commit to the following week if that is not too late for the survey?

Sarah Labossiere:

- I'm also wondering about the value of having retail food markets like CVS on there?
 - o It seems to clog up the list of places that you can buy food

Wendy:

- We could make a judgement on whether they offer SNAP, but would be difficult to judge on markup prices
- Currently most accept SNAP for milk and other items

00:46:39 *Christine Sullivan: they all take SNAP and sell milk etc*

00:56:13 *Sarah Labossiere: slabossiere@fallriverma.org*

00:56:57 *Sarah Labossiere: if anyone wants to volunteer to take a device to Farmers Market in FR on Tue, 2-5pm, Wed 2-4pm, and/or Fri 2-5pm*

00:57:12 *Sarah Labossiere: to help people complete consumer survey*

Sarah Labossiere:

- Ideas on getting flyers out for farmers markets?

Wendy/Liz:

- We could reach out to the supplemental food program partners - Whites, Harry's Restaurant, TDI, Juice'd, Children's Museum, etc.



Bill Nap (SRPEDD):

- We are working with the regional economics steering committee – is there anything that we can do to help the outreach?

Liz Wiley:

- If you could please work on sending out the survey to family/professional networks that would be great

Bill Nap:

- I'll make sure that everything goes back up on the new website