

**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 1, 2020 @ 9am**

*Chat Box Notes are in Italics.*

**Attendance: 27**

**Victoria Grasela (United Way of GNB):**

- We are working with Blount – and have a lot of (frozen) soup
  - o It can stay frozen for up to a year
  - o Contact me if you'd like soup!
  - o We can't also promise what type of soup it will be
  - o 4 lb bags, and cups of soup
- Rather than contacting Blount, you can just contact me

00:10:00 *Victoria Grasela:* *vgrasela@unitedwayofgnb.org*

**Liz (Marion Institute):**

- Sid Wainer did not get the grant
- Costa Produce out of Boston received the grant

**Victoria Grasela (United Way of GNB):**

- Costa Produce out of Boston received the grant rather than Sid Wainer
- They are the company that works with the schools
- They are looking to get rid of larger quantities
  - o ½ to 1 full truck
- If you are interested contact me and I can get you Karen's information
- The boxes are impressive with a lot of stuff in them, dairy, meat, etc.
- Talking about the Holidays we are planning to do our event as in the past
  - o I wanted to start the conversation about Thanksgiving meals
  - o We are going to start sending our traditional clients information about this

**Pam Kuechler (PACE):**

- We have a second truck, so we can talk about distribution
- We can set up a time to talk details offline with all the food pantries
- We have a larger client base then we have in the past

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Are you getting any of the Costa boxes?

**Pam Kuechler (PACE):**

- We are getting some of the Costa boxes from Tori and some from Carl who received a truck load

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Does Carl have a refrigerated truck?

**Pam Kuechler (PACE):**

- Not sure how he is handling the storage

**Helena DaSilva Hughes (Immigrants Assistance Center):**

- Our families were so happy with the boxes
- We had to get them out in 3 hours
- We have gotten 75 of the boxes

**Pam Kuechler (PACE):**

- We have seen an increase unfortunately, we thought it was because of one of our pop ups shutting down (some new people)
  - o We added a pop up in the South End, and we hope this will alleviate some of the pressure at our office
- Our youth build team will be starting a pop up

**Carol (Damien's Pantry):**

- We are seeing a steady count of about 120 people
- We are distributing boxes today (only 25 because storage was a problem)
  - o Keeping that product safe is an issue
- There is a letter in the box from the White House, signed by the President
  - o We have contacted our legal department, and have a feeling it could really impact their 501c3 status, as they cannot endorse politics
  - o They are putting a disclaimer on what they are distributing
  - o I guess we can't remove the letters, so we are figuring out what to do.

**Victoria Grasela (United Way GNB):**

- From what I know about the letters, some programs have felt uneasy and removed them
  - o I don't know if that's a problem, or if you want to add a disclaimer
- I will keep you posted when we make a decision
- The letter addresses, where the food comes from and how many boxes have gone out (15 million boxes) – with information on how to stay safe during Corona

**Pam Kuechler (PACE):**

- Typically a letter like this would come from the Department USDA, rather than the White House

**Liz W (Marion Institute):**

- Adele and I talked about the idea of Bristol Aggie students Canning

**Adele Sands (Bristol Agricultural High School):**

- I spoke with our local Board of Health
  - o He was comfortable with us doing it at school
  - o No issue with canning and distribution
  - o This year might be too rushed
    - Unanswered questions about how to get the product
  - o We are putting it together for next year with everything ready to go

**Liz (Marion Institute):**

- Once we get a little more organized, we will be reaching out to more here in the community to build the program
- One thing Ashley talked about is extra things that they should plant
- And also, what are people looking for?

**Desa VanLaarhoven (Round the Bend Farm):**

- There are some issues with some of the vegetables with the acidity content
- There are also considerations on the types of vegetables that you can grow
- We did a big survey with our Manifest love partners that we can share

**Victoria Grasela (UW- GNB):**

- We will get feedback on what clients enjoyed the most in our surveys going out next week

**Sarah Labossiere:**

- I want to encourage anyone on the call or tell people, if you have the ability to get to the Doolans Farmers Market, we are hoping for the Farmer to stay longer!
- This Tuesday, the mayor and Rep Schmid will be at the market
- As far as indoor markets, I was reaching out to Tess at the health department - we may be able to have an indoor market at Cardinal Medeiros
  - o The farmer there isn't very interested, so we are looking for another farmer
- We are looking to distribute the flyers for our markets soon, with HIP information on the back of them.
- Does anyone know if Fall River Schools were able to get produce boxes?

**Kim Smith (United Way Fall River):**

- We do know that Fall River Public Schools applied for produce boxes
- I'm not sure if this was independent (different than the Sid Wainer boxes)
- We'll follow up with this and see if we can find an answer

**Sarah Labossiere:**

- The reason I bring it up, is because I'd love to get flyers into wide scale distribution
- If anyone has other ideas, please reach out!

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- One of the things we did in Wareham that has been helpful, working with Makepeace and Southcoast health
  - o They were able to help offset the cost – anything that farmers did not sell, they would buy and distribute to the food banks
    - It has allowed us to expand the market this year

**Olivia Hart (SEMAP):**

- With enticing the farmers to stay, I think SEMAP is able to give a stipend to the farmer at Doolan
- I think that DTA tweeted a list of SNAP outreach partners, and I've been working off of that list
- If there are any updates about HIP or SNAP

**Marcia Picard:**

- As far as Southcoast support you can talk to Kerry Mello, Rachel Davis is now in that place at Southcoast
  - o Now in charge of the community partners for Southcoast

00:36:59 *Christine Sullivan: Kerry is retired*

**Stephanie Perks (Coastal Foodshed):**

- Farmers markets have been going ok at Brooklawn and Clasky Commons, Downtown is not as good (2 farmers still operating until the end of October)
- We are working on the indoor season, hopefully going back to the Unitarian Church in Union Street
- We are set up in the South end in front of DoCo at Kilburn Mills
- We are still going with our virtual market
- The indoor season will be interesting, Rep Schmidt contacted and talked to the DTA commissioner, and we should be able to have HIP during the winter
  - o I have heard from farmers that the drought is affecting their winter stock, so we will see what it looks like

**Jackie Millar (TerraCura):**

- We are working primarily with Algonquin heights in Plymouth
  - o They run a pantry on Friday with the need getting greater and greater
  - o We have a community garden here as well, and will be doing a harvest festival
- We have one market, but not in a good location for those who have SNAP and HIP (Mayflower Brewery)

00:44:24 *Sarah Labossiere: Fall River 3 market flyer:*

00:45:32 *Sarah Labossiere: HIP Info flyer:*

00:46:42 *Sarah Labossiere: HIP info double sided postcard size: SFPC NOTE: Please see email follow up for links to the files*

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Do we have any needs, concerns, etc., popping up as the seasons are changing?

**Olivia Hart (SEMAP):**

- I was on a zoom call w/ discussion about trying to get winter markets going this year
- MA Farmers Markets Org applied for a grant to get kiosk infrastructure for winter markets
- Amy Meyers from MA Farmers Markets is really helpful

**Desa VanLaarhoven (Around the Bend Farm):**

- We just had a meeting with our Manifest Love Partners
- We found that our partner orgs will have to find another food source if we stop before the end of the year (About 135 families / week)
- We did a huge, late planting, and should be able to finish out the year
- What does Jan/Feb look like?
- There has been a big opportunity for education in this program
- We are going to continue with the program next year

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Rob heard from the MA Infrastructure grant
- He received all 3 grants for the NBPS Culinary Center
- It will allow him to buy a lot of the infrastructure needs for equipment to bring the schools back to scratch cooking
- He just heard yesterday, they had about 3,300 applications to go through
- They planned to go through all of their money

*Additional Info Emailed Post Meeting: Adele Sands: Matt Malone, the Supt at FR School District, and he said that yes, they distributed 300 boxes yesterday. I forget who was looking for that info.*