

Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2020 @ 9am

Chat Box Notes are in Italics.

Attendance: 25

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- I'd like to keep our weekly calls as there are rising covid cases and grocery store shortages are starting to occur
- I want to continue seeing all of you – the power of this group has proven itself over past 8 months
- I had a lot of responses about bags. I'll talk to Tori at United Way about bulk purchasing bags and other strategies
- Sarah, if you're looking for space for indoor farmer's market, Good Shepherd Church in Fall River and Father Dan might be an option

Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion):

- We don't have a farmer that wants to do it in Fall River – we're leaning towards not continuing
- Does anyone have info about the Mass Farmer Winter Initiative?

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- Mass Farmer Market has a grant to do outdoor markets through the winter
- It's not easy to find a space large enough – not a lot of farmers are excited about doing an outdoor kiosk in the winter
 - o Someone would have to build the kiosks and there might not be funding
- Anyone hearing of outdoor Holiday Farmers Markets?

Dan King:

- Most farmers don't want to do a winter market, some are going to Farm Fresh in East Providence

Dave Perry (Fall River Food Pantry):

- Good Shepherd has a soup kitchen and a pantry and would be happy to help
- Turkeys have rolled in – we gave 109 turkeys away to clients
- We also received 90 turkey breasts
- 250 bags of 5 lb potatoes; we need people to come pick some up
- 8 am – 1 pm at the pantry

Wendy Garf-Lipp (United Neighbors):

- What about the veterans and Angels Anonymous?

Ominique Garner (AV Rose Farms):

- Hi, I'm new to the group, from AV Rose Farms. We deliver to Southcoast and North Shore – how can I get on your list?
- We delivering hot meals in Boston to different locations.



- We're giving out to homeless and housing insecure. We're real grassroots just my mom & me. I would love to get distribution for meals, if there is any surplus.

00:16:18 Ominique Garner | she/her/hers: avrose1912@gmail.com

Desa VanLaarhoven (Round the Bend Farm):

- What's happening with the listserv?

Portia (Marion Institute):

- We've reached out to Tufts to get best practices from them for their Emasscraft listserv and are close to getting it live – hopefully by next week

Ashley Brister (Sharing the Harvest Community Farm):

- I had a call with 3 Squares New England network in Greater Boston (same type of network that we have). They're launching an app with that will coordinate with farmers to network and send messages for surplus– I'll introduce you to him

Ominique Garner (AV Rose Farm):

- I'm a steering committee member Boston Food Access Council – we're looking at gaps in food system – and now we're doing an eco approach with the Mayor's desire to feed

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- We're about to launch Food Finder very soon, Mass 211 is really focused on hunger relief & meals – this is more of a hyper-focused version for the Southcoast region
- Dave have you reached out to Westport food pantry?

Wendy Garf-Lipp (United Neighbors):

- We're on hold with food trucks, but we might have a connection with Johnson & Wales
- We're focusing more on turkeys and individual Thanksgiving meals
 - We're trying to get New Bedford Voc Tech to help and to get restaurants to cook the turkeys
 -

Dave Perry (Fall River Food Pantry):

- We're giving to people who can't leave their houses due to covid (working with guy who does covid tracing)
- We've gone from 5 to 12 people today; it's really starting to spread in the city

Wendy Garf-Lipp (United Neighbors):

- Yes, we're in the red with covid rising & we anticipate much more (now that the schools are open)

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):

- We have a budget to provide people age 60+, fifty lunches a day but only ten people are showing up



- We're doing this in Marion and Acushnet; Tuesdays in Marion & Thursdays in Acushnet; it runs through Thanksgiving
- You just need to call us directly at Coastline Elderly to reserve ahead
- Lunch is provided by On The Go catering in Mattapoisett

00:33:10 *Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly): Sullivan: let me add, you don't need to be a resident of the town where the lunch is distributed. everyone is welcome*

Ashley Brister (Sharing the Harvest Community Farm):

- Down the line we're purchasing a freezer but I'm not sure how much space we'll have, maybe UMass Dartmouth has extra space to store – I'll reach out to Chef Kevin

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- We talked to UMass last spring but it wasn't an option then
- Christine, please send me blurb on lunches & we can get the word out

Desa VanLaarhoven (Round the Bend Farm):

- We're doing our online holiday shop, and we've been doing farm tours these last 3 months, they've been going well, we'll continue through Nov-December;
 - Our shop is really busy and it's once a month; we'd like to continue through winter
- Our last week of Project Manifest Love will be Dec. 14th
- We made a video for making sauerkraut, it was successful!
- YWCA had their participants shredding cabbage & freeze it
- We have tons of sunchokes – we asked people if they wanted to cook with them
- Our HIP terminal has just come in

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- As farmers markets are closing this week, it'd be nice to have HIP as an access point

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- I hope that sunchokes will be in the November market; I love the idea of freezing cabbage – I do this with my kale and tomatoes

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):

- Food is Medicine has a subgroup for older folks, they're trying to compile comprehensive list of all the places that do medically tailored food packages
- How do we create a list of farmers statewide?

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- Sustainable Business Network in Boston is setting up a list like that of farmer related resources
- They're developing an "eat local app" and are looking to expand that initiative

Pam Kuechler (PACE):

We're really busy, we have not seen a let up in numbers



- We had a record day, we had 200+ ppl come through
- We still have popups in New Bedford and with boxes ending, we shifted our supply to making bags for people
- We're waiting on a food infrastructure grant to acquire a building; space is critical with the winter – want to create space that's more palatable for staff & ppl coming to get food
 - If grant doesn't come through, we're looking for other places to set up shop different days of the week
- We've been staying in touch with Greater Boston Food Bank to make sure our supply comes in; we have 2 extra trucks if anyone needs help

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- The Cape Verdean Association building might work for anyone looking for a pop up
- Tori at United Way & Dave in Fall River have a bunch of potatoes from Bay Coast
- Also frozen soup from Blount, Christine Sullivan is looking for other people to go in on it with her