

Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2020 @ 9am

Chat Box Notes are in Italics.

Attendance: 23

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- Baycoast bank has reached out to the United Way for distributing potatoes that were donated
- Dave Perry has been receiving them and is willing to distribute to others

Dave Perry (Fall River Food Bank):

- I have about 150 bags of potatoes at the Food Pantry
 - o Veterans are picking up 100
 - o Someone else is picking up another 50
- 250 more are coming next week
 - o I believe 200 are still available
- I have been getting calls for picking up free turkeys

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

- Our communications went out, letting people know that families could get a turkey if they were not getting a Thanksgiving basket

Dave Perry (Fall River Food Bank):

- First time clients do not get a turkey, because people come only for the turkey
- If we don't do this our regular clients might not get a turkey
- We try to get people to sign up as a customer when they come for a turkey

Robyn Branco (YMCA):

- We could order turkeys for next week and be the backup provider for turkeys if we can get them
- We will try to get an answer for you by next Monday on access of turkeys

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

- Can we clarify what we have for potatoes?

Dave Perry (Fall River Food Bank):

- We get potatoes every other week, and it will be first come first serve
- If someone calls me, I can put them aside, but I've had people calling and not coming by
- We will need a count for how many families will be serviced

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

- We are doing the count, and I think it will be around 200+

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- These counts are based on the typical Thanksgiving program not running
- Ashley, were you successful in getting the extra butternut squash?

Ashley Brister (Sharing the Harvest - YMCA):

- The farm was not open when I went, so I will call them when they are open this week
- I believe it's inexpensive, \$79 per pallet

Robyn Branco (YMCA):

- We have dates for our winter markets in Wareham, Swansea and Fall River
- I am putting a flyer together, and the links on our website are correct
 - o We are trying to make sure that the days we are providing are not competing with current services
- We are currently using volunteers that we've had for Sharing the Harvest, but we are sure that we'll need more

Stephanie Perks (Coastal Foodshed):

- We are still looking for an indoor space based on location, date and time
 - o We will make a decision by the end of this week
 - o The space requirements due to Covid restrictions are making this more complicated
- The mobile farm stand is still operating at Kilburn Mill

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- I'm wondering if there is potential to use the Black Whale porch

Stephanie Perks (Coastal Foodshed):

- I am concerned about not being inside, but it's worth looking into

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

- The Synagogues in both New Bedford and Fall River have huge indoor spaces
- I could connect you to the Rabbi

Victoria Grasela (United Way of GNB):

- We're gearing up for Thanksgiving
 - o Each year we create 1000 meals, and the new Covid restrictions have changed our logistics!
 - We will have to do it in two days now
- I know that pantries are waiting for our turkey request answers, we are hoping to get that wrapped up this week
- United Way is also purchasing potatoes
 - o We are delivering them along our normal route
 - o We can help coordinate the distribution of these potatoes
- We can help get these to the potatoes to the restaurant for the Fall River program as well

Chelsie Stephenson (WIC):

- The last date for our farmers market will be right before Thanksgiving; we will not continue anything except deliveries after (Free service and SNAP accepted)

Pam Kuechler (PACE):

- We're busy getting ready for the holiday and taking names for people coming on a regular basis
- We're in a holding pattern waiting on the building location matters
- We're still doing a pop-up on Brock Ave, and are willing to do other locations if there's a need

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- Is Coastal Foodshed able to go to some other areas?

Stephanie Perks (Coastal Foodshed):

- It depends on the day, the best days currently for us are Thursdays and Fridays and Saturdays
- We had talked about doing a pop-up but have logistics to figure out

00:29:07 *Robyn Branco: <https://ymcasouthcoast.org/schedules/health-fitness/full-plate-project/>*

Victoria Grasela (United Way of GNB):

- Has anyone talked to Costa's about the food boxes grant that they received?
- The new contract is starting tomorrow

Pam Kuechler (PACE):

- I will talk to Carl to see where this stands

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- If we want to be thinking about HIP and the resources brought to this area, "how can we make our region resilient and not reliant on these food boxes", is an important point

Jim (Veterans):

- They will be going today to pick up the potatoes from Fall River Food Bank

Jackie (Damien's Food Pantry):

- I am taking over for Carol
- Pam, are you having issues stacking bags (now that we don't have boxes)?
 - o We are using tubs from cranberry producers that are stackable

Pam Kuechler (PACE) / Victoria Grasela:

- We would both like tubs is possible!

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- Portia is close to finishing the listserv



- I want everyone to be looking out for an email that will come to you about the listserv
- It's different from the email list that you're currently on
 - You will be able to respond directly on this listserv and post resources for the group
- Regarding Food Finder, Portia has been working with an intern from UMass, trying to bulk up the entries to have a more developed base for the Southcoast MA region
 - We're hoping to do a soft launch in the next couple of weeks
 - We will have a Food Policy call in the future detailing the use of the Food Finder App
- My last update is that we had a meeting with Holly Fowler, our food system consultant
 - She is in the process of doing interviews
 - Great information is coming from these, please if you want to contribute, reach out to me

00:56:40 *Portia DePina: <https://foodfinder.moonberrytech.com>*

00:56:53 *Portia DePina: For anyone who wants to check out Food Finder as it looks now*