

Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2021 @ 9am

Chat Box Notes are in Italics.

Attendance: 18

Victoria Grasela (United Way of GNB):

- Issues with getting press releases and media coverage about hunger and food security issues.

00:19:03 *Patricia Geggatt- Midurski: Good morning. I signed on late. Did I hear correctly that the USDA Farm to Family boxes have been cancelled ?*

00:19:23 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: yes canceled*

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

- Maybe as a region, now that we are working together, we could share an intern that could work on this.

Peter Muise (First Citizens' Federal Credit Union):

- One thing that has to be acknowledged is that press releases are out of date.
- The newspapers are not necessarily the best outlet anymore.
- Could we invite legislators to this meeting?

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

- What is our ask?

Peter Muise (First Citizens' Federal Credit Union):

- How do we get the political support here on the Southcoast?
- Whoever asks gets the attention
- We should talk with Liz, is this political advocacy something the Food Policy Council could undertake, or is it the United Way, etc.?

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

- All the advocacy trainings through RWJF said the same thing, you need a dedicated person.
- You can't get real advocacy by piecing it together, and someone in direct contact

Adele Sands (Bristol County Agricultural High School):

- The aides have a lot of power in communication through twitter, and that seems how you get the attention of the politicians
- We could also stipend a position, my daughter is getting stipend through a politician's office to do a lot of communications work.

00:22:14 *Meg- UWGFR- she/her: Tweet storms*

00:22:42 *Deloris Joseph, Dartmouth Youth Advocate: I agree Meg*

00:24:21 *Meg- UWGFR- she/her: We need an intern or Twitter savvy person to schedule and organize and write a series of tweets for EVERYONE to copy/paste and revise and tweet out AT the reps and their aides and such*

00:25:16 *Meg- UWGFR- she/her: I'm volunteering someone else for that job :)*

00:25:31 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: We need a paid person*

00:25:34 *Deloris Joseph, Dartmouth Youth Advocate: I know that news was upsetting*

00:26:01 *Deirdre Healy: UMass Dartmouth has a Public Policy degree. I could help create a meeting.*

00:26:17 *Deloris Joseph, Dartmouth Youth Advocate: I believe if we have the right interns we can get the twitter blast started*

00:26:19 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: That's great Deirdre*

00:27:58 *Deloris Joseph, Dartmouth Youth Advocate: Deirdre if we could get these students to also do video twitter blasts they are effective also*

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- This is absolutely the role of the Food Policy Council, and part of the workings of the steering committee.

Dierdre Healy (Umass Dartmouth):

- It might be good to find a faculty person in the policy department who is interested in the topic. I will look into that and get back to you

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

- In the meantime we could get an intern to start tweeting.

Adele Sands (Bristol County Agricultural High School):

- Also, BU has a student run business that is a PR company, and that is affordable.
- An intern would be great, but they also need some savvy to get into the politician's ear

Deloris Joseph (Dartmouth Youth Advocate):

- Is there a university program that could adopt this advocacy for one of their class projects?

Dierdre Healy (Umass Dartmouth):

- Internships are open right now, and we would need to move fast on them.
- We should make sure to vet and interview the potential intern to make sure they fit the need.

Deloris Joseph (Dartmouth Youth Advocate):

- I use the app, 5 calls, that connects you to your local legislators

00:34:37 *Deloris Joseph, Dartmouth Youth Advocate: 5 Calls App*

Jim St. Laurent (Veterans Association of Bristol County):

- I have a friend out in the USDA, and he is doing some research on the grant process, and find out why we did not get this grant, etc.

00:35:02 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: Excellent Jim!*

00:35:56 *Olivia Hart: I thought I had read Farm and Community Collaborative was involved?*

00:36:40 *Claudia Arsenio: There is a grant that is due next week for paid volunteers, maybe that is our Twitter person...copy and pasting, link included...not sure if anyone want to try applying. – Each year, MSA partners with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and public entities that serve as host sites for Commonwealth Corps members throughout the service term. Agencies can apply to host 2-4 full-time members or 3-6 half-time members for a 10.5 month term of service from mid-August 2021 through June 2022. <https://www.tfaforms.com/331608>*

Dierdre Healy (Umass Dartmouth):

- Is anyone paying attention to what Project Bread is saying about all of this?

Call was cut off early...