

**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2021 @ 9am**

*Chat Box Notes are in Italics.*

**Attendance: 37**

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Today, we'll start with an important updated from Michelle Hantman

**Michelle Hantman (United Way of GNB / Hunger Commission):**

- We're nearing our deadline with Sid Wainer and are applying again
  - o It's round 5 of USDA's Farmers to Families project
  - o We need to hear from you by tomorrow at noon
- There will be produce, meat, dairy, and a gallon of milk
- Boxes will go from Jan 26 – Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, with possible extension to extend to April
- You need to take a minimum of 50 boxes a week
- Boxes need to be handed out the same day – the perishability is really important
- There will also be some reporting involved that Sid Wainer, with #s is requesting, they're the grant recipient of USDA – how many people in a household
- Sid Wainer is willing to package 5000 per week

00:13:11 *Michelle Hantman: mhantman@unitedwayofgnb.org*

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Can other organizations do distribution from Wareham from Damien's Food Pantry on days you don't operate?

**Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):**

- I have Councils on Aging interested in Fairhaven and the Tritown area
- We need a more accessible parking lot to do, to avoid traffic

**Ivan Brito (M.O. Life):**

- We can partner with others to share boxes

00:34:30 *MO Life Account: Ivan Brito, email: ibrito@molifeinc.com*

**Claudia Arsenio (Full Plate Project/ YMCA):**

- I reached out to Debbie in Malden about intake software and am waiting to hear back
  - o We'll start using it in February
  - o It would be great to get a pod of people to use it with us to test it out
- What about doing pop-up food box distribution at Covid sites?
- We did our first bagged food distribution yesterday in New Bedford

**Jacob Miller (Senator Montigny's Office):**

- We got the state to extend the 7 Hills Contract to March 31<sup>st</sup>; they were going to stop tomorrow
- I like the idea of getting a pop-up at Stop the Spread Sites
  - o I'm willing to contact Connie at 7 Hills

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

- It's important to note that boxes are for people who are in need and I'd be wary of that being the case at covid sites

**Patricia Gegatt-Midurski (Acushnet Council on Aging/ Freelance Volunteer):**

- People are breaking quarantine to go get fresh food – they don't eat canned food
- These boxes would be great; I'd love to get a dozen per week
- I operate out of Acushnet Council on Aging and from my Home

**Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion):**

- Who screens for SNAP customers?
  - o I'd love to get information on that, because we need to do that too
  - o Also, to promote HIP

00:35:39 *Olivia Hart: [olivia.hart@semaponline.org](mailto:olivia.hart@semaponline.org)*

00:36:00 *Olivia Hart: I'd love to help distribute HIP information in the food boxes!*

00:37:50 *Sarah Labossiere: Sarah Labossiere, [slabossiere@fallriverma.org](mailto:slabossiere@fallriverma.org), 508-324-2405*

**Patricia Gegatt- Midurski (Acushnet Council on Aging/ Freelance Volunteer):**

- Contact tracers who work for the state are screening for SNAP
- As a resource coordinator, I have to ask about SNAP, PEBT and Unemployment

00:48:48 *Patricia Geggatt- Midurski: [pmidurski@comcast.net](mailto:pmidurski@comcast.net)*

**Susan (Coastal Foodshed):**

- We started our Winter Market at Buttonwood Warming House this past week
  - o It's on Saturdays from 10 – 2
  - o We have a great selection of vegetables; we also have honey and some other vendors
- People can use their HIP/ SNAP benefits at our farm stand and farmer's market
- We also have a location at Brock Ave
- Meat is being sold at the farm stand we have today
- We have a wide selection of things on our virtual market (around 10 different vendors)
- SNAP customers must pick up on Wednesdays
  - o How to information is on our website
  - o We are working on getting a grant for delivery to SNAP customers

**Portia DePina (Marion Institute):**

- We're calling volunteers for some Food Finder focus groups
  - o We will host on zoom for 3 to 4 weeks

00:44:30 *Portia DePina: pdepina@marioninstitute.org*

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- We might go every other week with this meeting too, since the holidays are busy
  - o We can see how the listserv helps with communication