

**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 17, 2020 @ 9am**

*Chat Box Notes are in Italics.*

**Attendance: 27**

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- This will be the last meeting for a couple weeks, we won't have one next week or on New Year's Day
- How is the listserv going? Feedback? We're working out the kinks
  - o It's very important that you include your email and full name in your signature so that people know who it's coming from
- We have some new people here today

**Thom Young (Roots Farm in Tiverton):**

- I'm hoping to develop a food bank farm in Rhode Island
  - o Along lines of Sharing the Harvest

00:09:04 Sarah Labossiere: *Does Thom have a current farm in Tiverton ?*

00:09:16 Thom Young: *I'm working for Roots Farm in Tiverton right now.*

00:09:56 Portia DePina: *Paul Constantine: pjc.boston@gmail.com*

00:10:13 Portia DePina: *Paul can help you troubleshoot Food Finder issues*

00:10:27 Portia DePina: *For Food Alert issues, reach out to me at: pdepina@marioninstitute.org*

00:18:18 Portia DePina: *To access FoodFinder: <https://www.marioninstitute.org/southcoastfoodfinder/>*

**Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):**

- We service 7 communities
- We had a great turnout last week
  - o 325 bags of produce went out to seniors
  - o Additional 100 bags went out through Council on Aging
- Barnstable County Extension Service has hired a Food Access Coordinator, they're trying to coordinate all the food going out from food pantries
  - o Might want to do a food policy council

**Meg Rogers (United Way of Greater Fall River)**

- We're working with charter schools to see who needs community meals next
  - o We got \$25,000 of funding from TDI
  - o Restaurants are putting meals together



**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Holly Fowler is anticipating being done with the Food Assessment report by January 11<sup>th</sup>
  - o If anyone's interested in reading it, let me know
  - o We're looking for photos of people from the community, farmers, food stakeholders, etc

00:21:13 Meg- UWGFR- she/her: *I'll read and email some photos over.*

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

- We have a new postcard
  - o We added Skinny Dip Farm to our HIP location list
  - o We're working on translating the postcards
    - Bristol Elders told me about a translation class program at BCC – they're looking for interns
- The new Winter Market is at Buttonwood Warming House, on Saturdays from 10-2
- An update on P-EBT: Massachusetts is the first state in the country to authorize it
  - o It will be every month, starting at the end of December
  - o It will cover school meals missed
  - o It will go through 2021 school year
  - o MAp-EBT.org will bring you to those resources
- We got a reminder from the Attorney General office about not requiring ID at food pantries
  - o I let some pantries know who had it up, to take it down
- Bristol Elders Services is going to help distribute the farmer's market survey to elders
  - o It is a help as we don't have senior centers in Fall River
- We are looking for volunteers to print, write and edit a newsletter for Footprints

00:28:58 Wendy Garf-Lipp: *Families with children in a fully remote learning environment will receive \$117 a month per child, and children in a hybrid learning environment will receive \$58 a month per child. Families can check their P-EBT balance by calling the number on the back of the card. P-EBT benefits can be used anywhere Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are accepted, including online from Walmart and Amazon. Learn more about P-EBT at MAp-ebt.org.*

00:29:12 Wendy Garf-Lipp: *Families who already receive DTA benefits will get their P-EBT benefits on their existing EBT card. Families who do not receive DTA benefits, but were mailed a P-EBT card in the past, will get their P-EBT benefits on their existing P-EBT card. Newly eligible students will receive their P-EBT benefits on their EBT card if receiving DTA benefits or will be mailed a P-EBT card if they do not receive DTA benefits. Families who lost their P-EBT card can request a new one.*

00:32:06 Christine Sullivan: *The Councils on Aging are set up to help seniors apply for SNAP benefits*

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

- Public charge has been overruled in the courts
  - o Immigrant families seeking Green Card status will not be impacted

00:47:45 Liz Wiley: <https://www.marioninstitute.org/renewyouchallenge/>