

**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 27, 2021 @ 9am**

**Attendance: 21**

**Audio Link:** <https://soundcloud.com/user-8563948/may-27-2021-sfpc-regional-meeting>

*Note: This document is largely paraphrased. Please see audio for direct quotes. Chat box comments identified as such below.*

Present: Don (Greater Grow New Bedford), Jacob Miller(Director Legislative Affairs Sen. Montigny's Office), Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion, Fall River), Pam Kuechler (PACE), David Perry (Greater Fall River Food Pantry), Nick Decas (Damian's), Laura Smith, Ryan Miller (United Way Greater New Bedford) Jennifer Pereira (DWS CWE), Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP ), Kim Smith(United Way Greater Fall River), Stephanie Perks (Coastal Foodshed), Whitney Tully (Lasagna Love), Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford ), Nikita Viera, Wendy Garf-Lipp (United Neighbors of Fall River), Ali Bettencourt (Southcoast Health), Olivia Hart (SEMAP), Laura Smith (science teacher), Elizabeth Murphy, Christine Smith (SFPC, Marion Institute), Liz Wiley (ED, Marion Institute)

Don (Greater Grow New Bedford)

- Started putting raised garden beds at Anderson Way elderly home, and funded through United Way in expanding operations to work with other senior housing areas. In the future, he would like to make this its own non-profit organization.
- Don is looking for more places to put in 2 raised beds and people to maintain them after they are in place.  
00:26:47 Don GGNB: [growgreaternb@gmail.com](mailto:growgreaternb@gmail.com)
- Liz Wiley- The Marion Institute just received an EPA grant with Buddy Andrade in the south end of New Bedford and the Marion Institute also does fiscal sponsorship to help groups become their own entities.  
**Action-** Liz will connect Don and Buddy to potentially work together. Liz will also talk off line with Don about Greater Grow New Bedford and how MI does fiscal sponsorship.
- Laura Smith, a science teacher suggested to Don that schools for the summer would be a great place to put in raised beds but Don said this might be problematic.  
00:25:19 Laura Smith: Don - if you need a contact person for New Bedford High School or Fall River Public Schools, please feel to reach out to me. I am happy to help. [lanegardens@gmail.com](mailto:lanegardens@gmail.com)
- Liz Wiley, MI, suggested because Adam Davenport at the MI works in the GROW program in schools, that maybe Liz and Laura can talk off line about potential partnership there.  
**Action-** Liz and Laura connect to talk about MI's GROW program.
- Kim Smith(United Way Greater Fall River) suggested that raised beds might be good for people with disabilities

- Wendy Garf-Lipp (United Neighbors of Fall River) said she agrees that once the raised garden beds are in place, in her experience they fall apart without committed people working on them.  
00:21:01 Wendy Garf-Lipp she/hers: [wendy@unfr.org](mailto:wendy@unfr.org)
- Don said eventually he will need a place to build more wood structures for the garden beds. Someone suggested he check out Youth Build <http://www.massyouthbuild.org/> for collaborating with youth to build more raised beds.
- **Action:** Don may check out <http://www.massyouthbuild.org/>
- Don closed by adding his wife is a horticulturalist and can provide advice to help families maintain gardens once they have been installed.

David Perry (Greater Fall River Food Pantry)

- David received 5 cases of flower and vegetable seeds if anyone would like them. Contact David at 401-266-8335 if you want them.
- **Action-** Don from Greater Grow New Bedford needs the seeds. Don will contact David about getting the seeds.
- David said they received the last delivery of farm to food and it is hard to keep cold because lack of refrigeration and space. He said he may not do it again next year because of this lack of infrastructure.

Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion, Fall River)

- Flyers are ready for farmers markets in multiple languages. Sarah posted the flyers in the chat box.  
**Action-** Sarah will post the flyers to [southcoastfoodalert@marioninstitute.org](mailto:southcoastfoodalert@marioninstitute.org)

Stephanie Perks (Coastal Foodshed)

- Farmers' markets and marketing are ready in multiple languages 7 days a week, June-Oct to shop local food.
- Please tell people the downtown New Bedford market has moved to Buttonwood Park Warming House and the Klasky market moved from Saturday to Friday, 2-6pm.
- All New Bedford markets are open 2-6pm.
- Received money from CDBG to do a mobile market for SNAP recipients

Pam Kuechler (PACE)

- Pop-up mobiles are going on as normal and we are seeing an increase in the number of people served.
- Pam said there is capacity to do more pop-ups so if you know of any place or town that needs a pop-up mobile food delivery, please contact her
- Still supporting Westport
- Planning to have a vaccine pop-up in June

Victoria Grasela (United Way Greater New Bedford)

- Hunger Commission program still very active
- Ryan works with UGNB

Whitney Tully (Lasagna Love)

- This past weekend, had a success of signing up 75 families to receive lasagna delivered to their homes
- Monthly, we are delivering 200 lasagnas
- Hooked up with Ed to provide meals next month in FR Housing

Nick Decas (Damiens')

- Houses of Hope looking for food but Damiens was told by GBFB they can't support them. They do get some of their food from United Way Greater New Bedford.

**Action:** Ryan from United Way Greater New Bedford will stop into Houses of Hope and check on their food.

- Nick needs help with grants. They have an ED and Committee but need a grant writer.

**Action:** David Perry (Greater Fall River Food Pantry) has a person who writes their grants. David will send Nick her contact information.

- Nick said their numbers are down. Usually they do 90-100 meals on a Saturday and now they are doing 70's, while during the weekday they are in the 40's.
- It was suggested to beef up their marketing and getting the word out about what they are offering. It was also suggested that because you have to trace the food directly to the people, that might be why the numbers are low.

**Action:** Nick might look into their marketing and see what they need to do to get the word out.

Guest Paul Constantine (pjc.boston@gmail.com), Marion Institute's Food Finder

- <https://foodfinder.moonberrytech.com/>
- Paul walked us through the Food Finder.

**Action:** Everyone- for your own organization, please look at the information. Please email [chris@marioninstitute.org](mailto:chris@marioninstitute.org) for any changes that need to be made and Chris will send them to Paul.

00:59:42 Stephanie Perks: *I noticed that the SFMNP is the only coupon option, I think you can change that to FMNP or put WIC in there as well.*

**Action:** Paul will change something in a category- change the SFMNP to FMNP and relabel it Senior and WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program