

**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 10, 2021 @ 9am**

**Attendance: 19**

**Audio Link:** <https://soundcloud.com/user-8563948/sfpc-regional-resource-zoom-6102021>

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

Present: Lauren Utschig (Executive Director Camp Riverside, Boys and Girls Club Metro South), Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion, Fall River), Ben Jones (UMass Corsair Network), Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly), Pam Kuechler (PACE), Maggie Chenard (United Way of Greater Fall River), David Perry (Greater Fall River Food Pantry), Nick Decas (Damian's Place Wareham), Kim Smith (United Way Greater Fall River), Patrece (Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society), Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford), Emily Breen (MA Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds), Wendy Garf-Lipp (United Neighbors of Fall River), Olivia Hart (SEMAP), Marcy, Peter Muise, Stephanie Taylor (Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society), Deirdre Healey (UMass Dartmouth, Leduc Center for Civic Engagement), M.O. L.I.F.E. Inc., Christine Smith (SFPC, Marion Institute), Liz Wiley (Executive Director, Marion Institute).

Lauren Utschig (Executive Director Camp Riverside, Boys and Girls Club Metro South)

- [lutschig@bgcmetrosouth.org](mailto:lutschig@bgcmetrosouth.org)
- Have a Freight Farm with LED lights when vegetables grow vertically up the walls of the freight container. The produce is served to the kids in their current programs and will be given to children in summer camp to take home.
- They are hiring for a one year fellow with a stipend of \$900 every 2 weeks. Looks to get the word out.
- **Action: Suggestion to send job description to:**
  1. Food Corp alumni- contact Adam Davenport of the Marion Institute would be a good link for this [adavenport@marioninstitute.org](mailto:adavenport@marioninstitute.org)
  2. Friedman School <https://nutrition.tufts.edu/>
  3. 00:14:16 Sarah Labossiere: there is an urban ag listserv - I think the contact person is Rebecca Miller from MA Food System Collaborative [Becca@mafoodsystem.org](mailto:Becca@mafoodsystem.org)
  4. 00:14:29 Ben Jones: We have a lot of students in the area interested in social/food justice - if you post the position on online and let me know, I can distribute to faculty and staff to send out to interested students - <https://www.umassd.edu/career/handshake/>
  5. 00:15:44 Ben Jones: Any jobs, internships, etc... for anyone - you are encouraged to post to handshake, and let me know and I can help get the word out to faculty and staff to make the student connections [ben.jones@umassd.edu](mailto:ben.jones@umassd.edu).

David Perry (Greater Fall River Food Pantry)

- They still have vegetable seeds and flower seeds if anyone wants them.
- **Action:** Call David at 401-266-8335 to arrange to get the seeds

**Action:**

- 1.) Don from Greater Grow New Bedford can be reached at: [growgreaternb@gmail.com](mailto:growgreaternb@gmail.com)
- 2.) Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford) [vgrasela@unitedwayofgnb.org](mailto:vgrasela@unitedwayofgnb.org) said their mobile market could use the seeds.
- 3.) Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society said they could use the seeds [mvvegansoc@gmail.com](mailto:mvvegansoc@gmail.com) and (508) 560-1562.

Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford)

- Most of the food used in the mobile market comes from "Sharing the Farm" and Coastal Foodshed.
- Currently, the mobile Market is in Wareham (Middle School) Tuesdays and New Bedford on Thursdays.
- **ACTION:** Tori, try to find other locations to meet needs of elderly, those who cannot drive and those who do not want to be noticed by trying to reach out to the Onset VFW or Onset Playground, Onset Pier. People said the best would be the Onset VFW- huge space and very discreet.
- If you want more information about identification other than Driver's licenses, contact Pat Baker at [pbaker@mlri.org](mailto:pbaker@mlri.org). When people first register, that is when we take their information. The challenge is people move often and do not tell us.

Kim Smith (United Way Greater Fall River)

- New location for food from the Shah Foundation in the south end of Fall River, at the Blessed Trinity Parish (1340 Plymouth Ave. Fall River, MA 02721) on Monday and Thursday, 12:30-2:30pm.
- 00:24:15 Sarah Labossiere: how long will Shah Foundation be providing meals?
- 00:25:35 Kim Smith: Shah did not give an end date
- 00:25:41 Liz Wiley (she/her): Shah Fdn will run to end of the summer at least, maybe longer since they are looking at alternative avenues of funding to keep it going
- Fall River Farmers markets begin the week of June 14

Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion, Fall River)

**Action:** Sarah will repost flyers to Food Alert.

- Markets will also have recipe cards in English/Spanish.
- There is a new Fall River Senior Center run by the Council of Aging in Fall River. New Assistant Director, Jen Milerack.
- [www.FairFoods.org](http://www.FairFoods.org), similar to ugly food movement. Anyone heard of this? Fair Foods Site List
  - East Boston Main Streets (154 Maverick Street, East Boston, Thursdays 11:30am-12:30PM)
  - Eastie Farm (Delivery service, please call 617-207-6545)
  - Maverick Landing (31 Liverpool Street, East Boston, Wednesdays 2-3:00PM)
- Dorchester, Field's Corner, Grove Hall
  - Bethel Hispanic SDA Church 1 Dix Street (corner of Dorchester Ave), Thursdays 2:00 - 4:00 PM
  - Cape Verdean Association- Please call the Fair Foods office for more information at 617 288 6185
  - Codman Square Branch of the Boston Public Library (690 Washington Street, Saturdays 2:00 - 4:00PM)
  - First Parish Church (10 Parish Street, Meetinghouse Hill (next to Mather School), Fridays 2-4:00PM)
  - Lena Park Comm. Center (150 American Legion Hwy., Tuesdays 3:00 - 4:30 PM)



- Mohhamed's Mosque No. 11 (10 Washington Street (Unity Plaza), Saturdays 10-1:00 AM)
- Viet Aid Community Center (42 Charles St, Boston, MA 02122, Wednesdays 4:00-6:00 PM)

**Action:** Sarah will reach out to Nikita for information on getting it into our area.

- Tables at Farmers Markets---if anyone wants a table at the Farmers Markets in Fall River, contact Sarah at [slabossiere@fallriverma.org](mailto:slabossiere@fallriverma.org). MI will take a table when Food Assessment is published.

Nick Decas (Damian's Place Wareham)

- Numbers are still down, perhaps because YMCA and other groups distributing in the area, people still eligible for SNAP, WIC, children in school getting food there. Might see numbers increase in September.
- If people are given food, instead of choosing for themselves what they will make/eat, that might be part of the issue. If there is a way to let people choose their food, more people may come.
- If you deliver food, that have been successful transition. Talk with Martha' Vineyard Vegan Society [mvvegansoc@gmail.com](mailto:mvvegansoc@gmail.com) and (508) 560-1562 if you want some ideas on how to transition to delivery service.
- There are people that are "invisible" such as the elderly and immigrants who cannot drive to get food or do not want to be noticed.
- Most of the food at Damien's is from grocery stores, Walmart's etc. To off load the food so it does not go bad, connect with Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford)

**Action:** Nick, contact Victoria Grasela at [vgrasela@unitedwayofgnb.org](mailto:vgrasela@unitedwayofgnb.org) (508) 994-9625 to give her your food when you do not need as much as you have. Also contact Pam Kuechler (PACE) [pamkuechler@paceinfo.org](mailto:pamkuechler@paceinfo.org) if you have extra food.

<https://www.facebook.com/pacenewbedford/photos/a.219229862097485/796167877737011>

**Action:** Nick, also talk with Victoria and giving your extra food if she moves to Onset VFW or any other place in Onset.

Olivia Hart (SEMAP)

- [olivia.hart@semaponline.org](mailto:olivia.hart@semaponline.org)
- Farmers markets starts next week and these markets do take HIP/SNAP, WIC and FNMP
- Farmer's Market Guide is out that lists all the markets <https://semaponline.org/2021-farmers-markets-guide/>