

The Marion Institute's Southcoast Food Policy Council
Quarterly Meeting for Members-at-large December 10, 2024
21 Participants

The agenda and details are in the PowerPoint.

1.) Action Alert: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/take-action-today-to-prevent-cuts-to-hip/>

Feedback on Impact of Advocacy: Pauline Macedo, from New Bedford City Community Services, shared the healthy incentive program using the SFPC's flyers. She attended her neighborhood meetings and presented the HIP information and advocacy opportunity. Many of the seniors wrote letters and called their legislators to support HIP.

2.) Sign up to be an SFPC member at large and receive emails with opportunities to take action:

<https://www.marioninstitute.org/programs/sfpc/southcoast-food-policy-council-join-the-sfpc/>

3.) CARAT (Community and Agriculture Resilience Audit Tool)

https://www.foodsystemsnetwork.org/docs/CART_Fillable_PDF_Oct_2023.pdf

CARAT is a way of doing a community food system assessment that involves working together with a group of stakeholders from the community to answer 101 different indicators/questions about what exists in Bristol County around various aspects of the food system to see if we have gaps in creating a resilient food system. We plan to finish the indicators in February, scoring ourselves and then sharing the outcomes. As food does not stop at county boundaries, we are also looking to do something similar in Plymouth, Barnstable, and with the Cape and Islands to create a Foodshed report. We will combine the information with our Food System Assessment in a report published in 2026.

4.) The Marion Institute's Frogfoot Farm: <https://www.marioninstitute.org/programs/frogfoot-farm-neighbors-feeding-neighbors/>

There is no gleaning program in Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, or Barnstable County. As a result, hundreds of thousands of pounds go to waste in the fields that could be harvested and donated to food relief. Frogfoot Farm will establish a regional gleaning program. Food relief should not come on the backs of our farmers, and providing tax incentives to farmers who participate in the gleaning program will become critical, especially anticipating cuts to SNAP.

Community Announcements:

- Liz Miller LMiller@spoonfuls.org Spoonfuls has a fleet of refrigerated trucks that pick up food from grocers and farms to bring to food pantries. If you are a farmer or grocery store and want your food delivered to a food pantry or if you are in a food pantry to receive more food, contact Liz.
- Old Bedford Village was awarded a \$100K grant from the EPA. Join the award ceremony on Wednesday, December 11, from 2-4 pm at the New Bedford Public Library, 613 Pleasant St., New Bedford.
- The Old Bedford Village area in New Bedford is a food desert. Old Bedford Village Inc. would like to work with any farmer or group to have a farmers market or open a food pantry in Old Bedford Village, New Bedford. Buddy Andrade obvdcb@yahoo.com.

Tasks:

- The SFPC Team will discuss:
 1. Talking with Lane Gardens Farm in Dighton (Laura Smith) about talking to people at their farmers market about HIP and HIP advocacy.
 2. Meeting with Andrea and Kim from Cape Cod Collaborative about hosting an in-person Food Summit in September for the Southcoast and Cape.
- Christine will contact Peter Blain at 13 Strategy regarding involving residents in the SFPC. pblain@i3strategy.com.