

NEK Food Cycle Coalition

October 10, 2017

Alison (NVDA), Colleen (VDH), Laural (NVRH/CAHC), Kelsey (VTFoodbank), Annie (Town of Lyndon), Ann (DEC), Abby (NVRH/KCS), Tara (St J Chamber), Lallie (NEK CoA), Shannon (NEKWMD), James (Newport Alderman)

(NVDA = Northeastern Vermont Development Agency; KCS = Kingdom Community Services, NVRH = Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital), VDH = Vermont Department of Health, GMFS = Green Mountain Farm to School, DEC = Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, NEKWMD = NEK Waste Management District, NEK CoA = NEK Council on Aging)

Alison opened the meeting and asked for additions to the agenda. Introductions all around.

Topic	Discussion	Action
Food Distribution System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ann gave an update on the Farm to Plate Food Cycle Coalition meeting. She attended the field trip to the NW Family Foods Community Food Shelf in St. Albans; guided by Robert Ostermeyer from Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO). Their biggest challenge is staffing. They are seeing most of the same people as in the past, but people seem to be coming more often – may be a reflection of making the facility more user-friendly. Jason Maring, COO at the VT Foodbank also spoke of the challenges of distributing fresh food in a timely manner. Other issues: rural nature of the state making distribution harder; cost of food – it is cheaper to buy from large farms in Quebec. 	
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catamount Arts will partner with us to show the film Wasted. They do not have a date yet, but it should be in November or December. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laural will let everyone know once we get the showing dates from Catamount. Kelsey will reach out to Hannafords.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible panelists for the film showing: Hannafords; VT Foodbank (Chris Meehan); NEKWMD (Paul Tomasi); Meal Site (Cornacopia – Vauonne); Food Shelf – NW Family Foods – Robert Ostermeyer; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann will reach out to Robert. • Laural will contact the Academy about catering the event with “excess” food (finger foods) • Outreach plan needs for be developed: to food suppliers and customers, municipal leaders
Funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison reported there are 4 potential funding opportunities: Rural Enterprise grants; Community Facilities grant; Working Lands Enterprise; Community Food Grant. • All agreed we are still in the planning phase and would benefit from a consultant to identify gaps and opportunities, resources needed, and potential revenue streams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison will draft a brief description of what we would like to focus on. • Alison will arrange a meeting/call with Ben Doyle from USDA – all are invited to attend once Alison has a date and time. • Alison will contact Teresa Snow at Salvation Farms (gleaning) to get her take on what has or hasn’t worked in the past.
Road trip to area food shelves and/or meal sites.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More to come on this – Alison will follow up
Regional Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison reported that the regional plan is being updated – she will keep us apprised as this progresses. 	
Farm to Plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several in attendance are also on Farm to Plate groups. We need to formalize a connection to that initiative. Their annual conference is in Killington on 10/26 and 10/27. 	
Next meeting	Tuesday November 14 at 10 am. NVDA	