

NEK Food Cycle Coalition Meeting
September 12, 2017

Attending: Alison (NVDA), Lew (KCS and NVRH), Dixie (VT211), Abby (KCS and NVRH), Paul (NEKWMD), Annie (Town of Lyndon), Deb (VDH), James (GMFS), Laural (NVRH), Ann (DEC), Tracy (NVDA), Shannon (NEKWMD) Tom (VT Foodbank), Kelsey (VT Foodbank), Lallie NEKCoA, Colleen (VDH)

(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. Minutes from August were reviewed, no corrections. Introductions all around.

Topic	Discussion	Action
Food Distribution System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on retailers and farmers (not restaurants at this time – they are really good at using excess food internally) • Include both perishable and non-perishable food • Identified barriers to efficient flow of food include: food shelves and meal sites are not open every day and have limited volunteer hours • Once gaps and barriers are identified, we need to find funding sources. If the system is streamlined, there may be savings within the system to fund the new distribution system. Other funding sources: community facilities grants, social enterprise model (find an excess food product to sell) • Kingdom Community Services coordinates for 6 St J church meal sites and often partners with churches in Danville and Lyndon. Unsure if there are other organizations in the rest of the Kingdom coordinating faith-based resources. • Tom and James briefly described their respective models of food distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn from other models in the state and nationally. Farm to Plate, Salvation Farms, Faith based organizations, VT Foodbank are a good resource for this • Conduct site visits to food shelves, meal sites to learn what works and doesn't from those doing this work – be sure to be there when the food comes in from the source e.g. grocery store (attendees indicated their interest in being part of these visits) • Research other "apps" like OLIO (MIT and City of Seattle) • Bring in other funders like USDA when we are ready
Branding (better name for food waste)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No consensus on the best name, but all did not like "food waste". • More positive words: excess, sharing, fresh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct informal and formal focus groups to ask people from various groups (retailers, farmers, meal site and food shelf staff, those receiving the food for

		<p>consumption) what names they prefer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When ready, bring in a marketing consultant to work on branding ideas
Outreach and films	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NVDA can eventually host a page on their website as a place holder for our work • “Wasted” documentary See link http://wastedfilm.com/ • Possible partnership with Catamount for the fall • Ann also recommended we watch the film “Just Eat it” http://www.foodwastemovie.com/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laural has reached out to Anne at Catamount about “Wasted”
Mapping suppliers and those needing food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison reviewed the map of excess food generators in the NEK. • Ann reported that DEC will soon have an updated map • VDH and others also have databases that may be helpful when mapping resources 	
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRAFT Food Donation guide • Vermont Guidance for Food Donation • VT Foodbank Food Donation Guidelines 	
Next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Tuesday of October – 10/10 at 10 am at NVDA 	