

NEK Food Cycle Coalition
January 9, 2018
Alison, Deb, Lew, Laural, Shannon, Paul,

December meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

Shannon reported that she has spoken to Jennifer Griffith from Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA <http://www.newmoa.org/>), the organization that supports waste management activities in Northeast. They currently have a grant to support food recovery and composting efforts. Shannon is working with Jennifer to compile a list of both food generators and users – something this group has discussed. Under the grant, Jennifer is also interested in sponsoring some “events”. Two event opportunities we have already identified are a Wasted! showing in the upper NEK, and training for food retailers (especially on the legal issue around donated food). Jennifer can attend our February meeting and we can talk more about possible partnership opportunities (such as whether her grant can be used to match our application to the USDA grant.)

Laural reported that she had invited Natasha Duarte, the chair of the VT Farm to Plate Food Cycle Coalition (and VT Composting) to attend in February. Laural will ask her to attend in March and April. Paul noted that he and others on this committee are also on the F2P Food Cycle committee.

USDA grant: The group reviewed the letter of intent and the feedback Paul received from Susan Poland. The feedback actually raised more questions than it answered. Alison and Paul are both attending the informational meeting for this grant on 1/17 from 2 – 5 pm in the Burke Mtn Room at LSC. We know we need at least one letter of commitment from “a small or emerging business” and letters of support. Paul will talk to Tom Gilbert, Jody Wheeler, and Eric Paris about letters of commitment. This requirement is because there is an expectation that jobs will be created as a consequence of this grant. Possible letters of support can come from all our member organizations, Whites, Marty's, Price Chopper, Natural Foods (St J and Newport), Chambers of Commerce, Center for Ag Economy, Food Shelves. Alison will have more information about the content of the letters of support after the 1/17 informational meeting. Laural suggested she ask members of this committee to do the leg work on getting letters of support (since Alison and Paul will be doing most of the work on writing the grant). Letters should be back to Alison by Friday 2/9. More information on the letters will go out in an email to committee members.

Other:

- We briefly discussed the rebranding of Price Chopper to Market 32 and if that presents and opportunity.
- Laural asked if anyone was interested in joining the Well-Nourished Community Action Network that is part of a larger Collective Impact effort to improve health in our region.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 2/13 10 am at NVDA in St. Johnsbury.