

2025 09 24 Transcript Food Steering Committee

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00:09:51.130 --> 00:10:03.089

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: All right, good morning, folks. It's 11.02, we've got, people still filtering in, but I think we'll kick off anyway, and they can catch up, as we go along.

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00:10:03.090 --> 00:10:15.669

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: I see a couple of new faces in the group, so let's do a quickie round of introductions. If there's anything more that you want to add about yourself or your work, feel free to put that in the chat.

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00:10:15.740 --> 00:10:24.840

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: I'm Joanne Ziegmunt from World Colony Planning Council, so I am managing this Food Action Plan for Plymouth County on behalf of

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00:10:24.900 --> 00:10:36.069

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Plymouth County, Marion Institute, and Old Colony Planning Council. We're in it together. Welcome to this meeting. I'll pass it over to my colleague, Bill, who's on here as well. Bill?

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00:10:36.270 --> 00:10:43.179

bill napolitano: Hi, I'm Bill Napolitano, I'm a Resilience and sustainability planner with OCPC, and I'm working with Joanne.

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00:10:43.850 --> 00:10:46.949

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yep, and I see we have Mary, our Exec Director. Mary?

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00:10:48.230 --> 00:11:03.609

Mary Waldron, OCPC: So, I am not working with either one of them, because they do this on their own, but just want to say thank you to all of you. This is a great project, and I'm listening in, and look forward to seeing the great work that's being done. Thank you, Joanne and Bill from OCPC.

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00:11:04.520 --> 00:11:07.480

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Thanks, Mary. Frank, over at the county.

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00:11:08.100 --> 00:11:14.139

Frank Basler, Plymouth County: Frank Basler, Plymouth County Administrator, and, been excited and working on this project.

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00:11:14.320 --> 00:11:22.610

Frank Basler, Plymouth County: Happy to be here. Missed the last meeting due to vacation, pre-planned vacation plans, but very excited to be back.

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00:11:24.550 --> 00:11:26.620

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And Rita from the Marion Institute.

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00:11:27.850 --> 00:11:46.550

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: Rita Higgins with the Marion Institute. My focus is food access and innovation, and at the moment, I'm doing most of the work on these cared assessments that we're doing in each county. And so, I'll be working on facilitating the meeting that's after this for the Community Advisory Board.

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00:11:47.930 --> 00:11:54.299

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Great, thank you. And I'm just gonna go in random order on my screen here. Hampton, welcome!

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00:11:54.690 --> 00:11:57.050

Frank Basler, Plymouth County: income from Mississippi, you know, whatever.

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00:11:57.390 --> 00:11:58.200

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Pampton Community.

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00:11:58.200 --> 00:11:59.770

Hampton Watkins: Hey, I'm Hampton.

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00:11:59.770 --> 00:12:00.460

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: There we go.

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00:12:00.740 --> 00:12:03.210

Hampton Watkins: Yes, I can hear you.

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00:12:03.820 --> 00:12:05.289

Hampton Watkins: Can you hear me?

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00:12:05.650 --> 00:12:06.909

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yes, go ahead.

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00:12:08.760 --> 00:12:14.049

Hampton Watkins: Okay, I'm Hampton Watkins, I'm... a resident of Plymouth.

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00:12:14.180 --> 00:12:21.930

Hampton Watkins: And, I've worked on other, MVP projects with OCPC,

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00:12:22.070 --> 00:12:25.450

Hampton Watkins: And I look forward to continuing work on this.

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00:12:25.580 --> 00:12:27.520

Hampton Watkins: In the coming months.

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00:12:28.960 --> 00:12:30.530

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Thanks, Captain. Karen?

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00:12:31.580 --> 00:12:46.039

Karen Barry: Good morning, everybody. I'm Karen Barry, and I work for the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office, and involved from the perspective of the work that we could do collaboratively through the Plymouth County Farm.

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00:12:49.380 --> 00:12:50.680

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Liz Shay?

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00:12:50.940 --> 00:13:10.650

Liz Shea: Hi, I'm Liz Shea, I'm the Abington Town Planner, and I think Kevin Kogan has jumped on. He's our Deputy Town Planner, and the two of us are in Phase 2 of an MVP 2.0 pilot project, where we're doing remote gardens. We have a garden

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00:13:10.930 --> 00:13:23.970

Liz Shea: community garden, kind of in the center of town, that gets a lot of use, but we're trying to do some, like, remote gardens for... for people that it's hard to get to the center garden.

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00:13:24.200 --> 00:13:41.869

Liz Shea: So we're doing one at a senior center, and one at a... not at the senior center, sorry, at senior housing, and we're doing another one, in a park. So we're just kind of along for the ride here, maybe have an exchange of information of what you guys are doing, you know, what you could help us out with, because it's all new to us, too.

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00:13:43.210 --> 00:13:45.819

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Awesome. Welcome, Liz. Kevin, do you want to say hello?

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00:13:48.860 --> 00:13:56.769

Kevin Cogan: Yeah, I'm Kevin Kogan, I'm the Deputy Town Planner. Lachey gave an introduction to my being here on the meeting.

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00:13:56.870 --> 00:13:58.699

Kevin Cogan: But, happy to be here.

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00:13:59.730 --> 00:14:01.260

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Welcome. Rob?

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00:14:01.680 --> 00:14:20.970

Rob May: Hi, I'm Rob May, I'm Director of Planning and Economic Development for the City of Brockton for another 10 days, I think, and, at which I'll retire, but I'll still want to stay involved with the project. As the largest city in Southeast Mass, Brockton has been

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00:14:21.830 --> 00:14:37.139

Rob May: looking into how it can play a better role. We've authored a urban agriculture plan and are trying to convert that into zoning and into policy here at the city.

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00:14:37.630 --> 00:14:51.570

Rob May: That can be always challenging. But we have a large number of food manufacturers in the city because of our availability of water and workforce, and we hope to be able to translate that into

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00:14:51.570 --> 00:15:06.099

Rob May: Action with, local... the local farming community as we can look at their production, and how do we add value to the product to make more money for both the local farmers and to keep that in our, economy.

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00:15:07.930 --> 00:15:11.460

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Thanks, Rob. I'm gonna pass it to Rob's partner in crime, John.

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00:15:12.380 --> 00:15:15.170

John Fay: Everybody, yeah, knows.

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00:15:15.170 --> 00:15:15.630

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: the broccol.

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00:15:15.630 --> 00:15:32.860

John Fay: I must have clicked Rob's link, so my name is actually John Fay, rhymes but not the same, and I am the Senior Planner here in Brockton. I think I will be filling Rob's shoes when he leaves, at least temporarily, and he covered a lot of the reasons why Brockton

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00:15:32.860 --> 00:15:37.310

John Fay: happy to be involved in this, and yeah, I just want to second all that. Thank you.

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00:15:38.110 --> 00:15:44.459

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Great, thank you. And our other Brockton focus on is, John from Brockton Farmers Market. Hello, John.

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00:15:45.190 --> 00:15:51.739

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: Hi, Joanne and everybody. I'm John Van Kuichen. I manage the Brockton Farmers Market.

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00:15:52.050 --> 00:15:54.519

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: Through the end of this season.

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00:15:54.910 --> 00:16:06.320

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: So, I've been helping... Customers in the area get access to...

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00:16:06.930 --> 00:16:10.480

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: Local healthy food for the past 10 years.

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00:16:12.860 --> 00:16:13.880

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Thanks, John.

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00:16:14.030 --> 00:16:16.250

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And Charlie Brandon.

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00:16:20.100 --> 00:16:36.840

Charlie Brandon: I'm from the Boys and Girls Club of Metro South. I am their urban farm director, so I oversee... I'm so sorry, it's a little loud in here. I oversee our hydroponic farms at each of our locations, and our food rescue and food distribution program.

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00:16:37.850 --> 00:16:41.700

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Awesome. Welcome, Charlie. Great to have you on board. Molly.

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00:16:46.510 --> 00:16:48.269

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Oh, Molly, I can't hear you.

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00:16:48.890 --> 00:16:51.990

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Although you look unmuted, so I'm not sure why we can't hear you.

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00:16:53.050 --> 00:16:54.459

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Still can't hear you.

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00:16:56.780 --> 00:17:06.059

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: I don't know what's going on. Welcome, Molly. Frank, do you want to introduce Molly? Because I forget the details of exactly what Molly does, and I don't want to undersell.

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00:17:06.069 --> 00:17:07.859

Frank Basler, Plymouth County: Mari, Molly...

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00:17:07.859 --> 00:17:09.629

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Oh, wait, I can hear you, Molly, yep.

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00:17:09.630 --> 00:17:29.149

Molly Vollmer: You're good, welcome! Sorry, guys, thank you for that. Yes, I am part of the Plymouth County team. I serve as the Extension Director here for the County of Plymouth, work closely with the 4-H program, all things agriculture, and get excited about anything community-based. So, thanks, looking forward to the rest of the meeting and planning for this project.

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00:17:29.900 --> 00:17:32.369

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Awesome. Welcome, Molly. Marisol?

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00:17:34.460 --> 00:17:39.299

Marisol Torres: Hi, good morning. Marisol Torres, I am the Program Director for the BAMC Helpline.

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00:17:39.760 --> 00:17:41.160

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Oh, nice, welcome!

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00:17:41.510 --> 00:17:42.470

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Nikki?

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00:17:44.200 --> 00:17:51.319

Nikki Galibois: Hi, sorry for jumping in late. I'm Nikki Gallabois, I'm the Director of Planning and Development at South Shore Community Action Council.

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00:17:51.950 --> 00:17:53.460

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Welcome, Nikki. Judith?

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00:17:54.310 --> 00:18:00.350

Judith Henze: My name's Judith Henser, I am a food system transformation expert from Germany.

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00:18:01.570 --> 00:18:05.080

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Welcome. Liz Miller from Spoonfuls?

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00:18:07.690 --> 00:18:09.889

Liz Miller | Spoonfuls: Hi everyone, can you hear me okay?

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00:18:10.260 --> 00:18:11.040

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: We can.

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00:18:11.210 --> 00:18:14.800

Liz Miller | Spoonfuls: Hi, yeah, I'm sorry, I'm in transit, so I'm not turning on.

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00:18:14.800 --> 00:18:15.160

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: I don't know.

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00:18:15.160 --> 00:18:28.729

Liz Miller | Spoonfuls: Very happy to be here. My name is Liz Miller, I'm the Senior Community Relations Manager at Spoonfuls. I know a handful of the folks on this call, you might know Spoonfuls as Loving Spoonfuls, but we're Spoonfuls now.

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00:18:28.740 --> 00:18:47.849

Liz Miller | Spoonfuls: We're a food recovery organization, and we are actively expanding, the reach of our work. So, we actually launched a new route this week in, covering parts of Brockton, Bridgewater, and then sort of more into Bristol County,

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00:18:47.870 --> 00:19:06.140

Liz Miller | Spoonfuls: Fall River, New Bedford areas, and we're excited to plan for another truck coming online next year, and hoping we can support more of Plymouth County through that work. So, that means us moving more food recover... recovered food through the region, and so I'm very excited to just kind of learn what's going on.

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00:19:06.370 --> 00:19:15.709

Liz Miller | Spoonfuls: on this project, and connect with folks, and I'll put my... my name and my email in the chat, too, if anybody wants to... to learn more from me directly, because that's...

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00:19:15.860 --> 00:19:23.429

Liz Miller | Spoonfuls: that's what I'm here for, so, happy to connect with folks, like, after, you know, outside of this meeting, if you want to learn more. Thanks.

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00:19:23.430 --> 00:19:27.699

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Awesome. Thanks, Liz. Welcome. Liz Wiley.

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00:19:29.040 --> 00:19:34.700

Liz Wiley: Hi everyone, I'm Liz Wiley from the Marion Institute, and excited to be with you all. Thank you.

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00:19:36.020 --> 00:19:41.310

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So, in wonderful Zoom fashion, the names keep skipping around on my list, so who have I missed?

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00:19:42.240 --> 00:19:43.750

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Have I gotten everybody?

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00:19:45.290 --> 00:19:52.199

Meghan Riley: I'm just gonna... I just jumped in a little bit late. I'm Meg Riley, I'm the, Agricultural Extension Educator for Plymouth County. Thank you.

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00:19:52.990 --> 00:19:54.780

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Thanks, Meg. And Carrie.

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00:19:54.950 --> 00:20:05.570

Kerrie Lirosi: Yes, hi. I'm a former educator turned a professional volunteer and very passionate advocate for all things climate and environment and local food.

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00:20:06.340 --> 00:20:08.849

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Awesome, thank you, Carrie. Anybody else that I missed?

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00:20:09.890 --> 00:20:10.690

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: No?

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00:20:10.920 --> 00:20:20.420

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Great. Welcome, everybody. It's such a great group, and it's wonderful to see new faces joining us as well. I think we're gonna get a lot more of that as we move forward in our project over the next several months.

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00:20:21.110 --> 00:20:24.630

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: is somebody getting feedback?

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00:20:25.250 --> 00:20:27.260

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: You guys okay? Can you hear me okay?

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00:20:28.460 --> 00:20:36.300

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah, okay, cool. So... cool. Okay, so you can see the agenda on the screen today.

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00:20:36.400 --> 00:20:42.340

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: We are going to provide you guys with an update from the Community Advisory Board meeting that we had last month.

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00:20:42.420 --> 00:20:57.860

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And we can talk a little bit for folks that are new, we can tell you a little bit about the distinction between this group and the group that meets right after. We'll update you all on the RFP process for additional consulting services that has been ongoing since our last meeting.

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00:20:57.860 --> 00:21:06.249

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And then we'll talk about, more about public participation and stakeholder engagement following on from the meeting that we had last month.

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00:21:06.370 --> 00:21:25.699

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And then we'll talk a little bit about next steps. We do have a survey that pops up on your screen at the end of this meeting. We got some really good feedback from folks at our last month's meeting, so if you can take a couple minutes at the end to just fill that out, that really helps us try and improve meetings as we go forward. So just keep an eye on that.

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00:21:26.250 --> 00:21:30.390

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Does that agenda sound okay? Is there anything else that anybody wanted to add or talk about?

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00:21:32.480 --> 00:21:50.460

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: No? Okay, super. So, this is a meeting of the steering committee. The project that we're working on, the end goal is to develop a food action plan for Plymouth County. More information is available on our website. Frank, I don't know if you can pop that link into the chat for me.

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00:21:50.530 --> 00:22:06.019

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: That would be great. The process is very participatory, and we're still at kind of the beginning part of it, so the next, sort of, month or two is really still trying to kind of find our feet and figure out exactly what we want to do.

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00:22:06.020 --> 00:22:20.240

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And then we'll start getting into, kind of, like, the meat of everything. So the steering committee, you guys on here today, are going to help us with that process. Once we get the additional consultants on board, they'll be reporting to you guys in this group.

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00:22:20.320 --> 00:22:31.459

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Anything that gets put out publicly will get, like, a draft plan in the future. We'll get... go through this group for your participation and feedback into that process.

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00:22:31.700 --> 00:22:49.019

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And you'll help us kind of figure out, really, how we should engage folks across the region. That's probably the most important role in the steering committee. There are a lot of people we need to talk to, a lot of people we need to involve, and figuring out the who and how is challenging, so that's really where we need your help.

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00:22:49.320 --> 00:23:00.399

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So with that, I'm going to pass it over to Rita to talk a little bit about how the Community Advisory Board is different, and how, their progress from last month has so far moved forward.

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00:23:01.670 --> 00:23:16.089

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: Yes, thank you. So, the Community Advisory Board that we've put together is specifically brought together to conduct a CARET assessment, which is the Community and Agriculture Resilience Audit Tool, which

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00:23:16.090 --> 00:23:21.790

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: I think many of you now have probably heard us talk about a couple times, and many of you are also on...

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00:23:21.790 --> 00:23:32.669

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: the Community Advisory Board. We are working through all seven themes of the CARET tool, and the idea is that the Community Advisory Board is helping us

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00:23:32.670 --> 00:23:46.740

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: identify assets in Plymouth County related to each of the themes, and those themes are broken down into indicators, so there's individual indicators within the themes. And we'll be going through each theme, we'll be identifying

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00:23:46.740 --> 00:24:03.829

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: the resources, that are in Plymouth County will be, sort of fact-checking those and making sure that what came out in the community advisory board meetings, that those programs and policies, projects, which is a focus of

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00:24:03.910 --> 00:24:16.920

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: practices of the carrot, they exist, we'll name them, and then we'll be coming back together at the end, once we've gone through each of the themes, to assign a score. And the carrot has, their own scoring system.

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00:24:16.920 --> 00:24:30.030

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: And that score is going to provide us with a baseline resilience score for the county, and one that we can come back to and, really emphasizing that the CARET process is iterative, and

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00:24:30.040 --> 00:24:35.520

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: We're working to include as many voices as possible now, and keep bringing people in.

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00:24:35.740 --> 00:24:42.550

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: as we get the word out, as more people hear about it. So we have had two community advisory board meetings.

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00:24:42.600 --> 00:24:52.639

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: So far. And both of them actually focused on Theme 1. Theme one is about natural resource management, protection of ecosystems and farmland.

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00:24:52.690 --> 00:25:04.819

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: And it is one of the, one of the biggest themes, and I think even within Plymouth County, it took us two sessions because there are quite a few resources. So we had a lot of information.

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00:25:04.820 --> 00:25:12.750

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: We had some great conversation, and we've got, a big list of policies, programs, practices

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00:25:12.750 --> 00:25:21.199

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: that now we're gonna go back through and, Joanne and I will be talking about how to make sure everyone has access to see what came out of the meetings.

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00:25:21.200 --> 00:25:28.649

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: The recordings are available, transcripts are available, and then the spreadsheet that we've been working in will be available so everyone can have a look through.

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00:25:28.650 --> 00:25:50.100

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: Joanne and I discussed that going forward, because people are... well, we encourage everyone who's interested, generally, to come to any of the themes, some of them are quite specific, and people might want to attend ones where they feel they have more expertise. Again, we welcome everyone to attend, and even... even if you're just there to listen.

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00:25:50.100 --> 00:25:54.870

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: But that... so that people can use their time,

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00:25:54.920 --> 00:26:06.649

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: wisely, and fit things into their schedule. Instead of... if we don't finish a theme in the future, we will most likely, bump that to an additional meeting, so that each

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00:26:06.760 --> 00:26:19.999

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: each date that we have in the calendar will be a specific theme. We'll stick to that theme. If we don't finish, we'll let everyone know when we're gonna come back to that theme. And there might be a couple themes where we have a few indicators we didn't get to. That might be just sort of a...

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00:26:20.110 --> 00:26:23.349

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: a sort of overflow meeting at some point, so...

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00:26:26.150 --> 00:26:27.160

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Thanks, Rita.

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00:26:27.340 --> 00:26:39.959

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So, the Community Advisory Board and their work going through the caret and the indicators is going to feed into the action plan that we develop, by the end of June of 2026.

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00:26:40.010 --> 00:26:56.480

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So we do have an RFP, and I'm going to share my screen, so I can give you a little bit of a better sense of what this project looks like. So we do... so the part that Rita was talking about is here. This is the Community Advisory Board and their work on the CART tool.

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00:26:56.550 --> 00:27:14.080

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: The other components of the project that ultimately will lead to the Food System Action Plan, rely on additional consultants who are going to really support us in looking at the local food economy and the food system infrastructure that exists.

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00:27:14.570 --> 00:27:34.190

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And also, based on that information, and using the information that we gather from the CART, as well as the public outreach, and the public survey, and other participatory methods that we're going to use, they're going to help us identify what the gaps are and what the opportunities are in our region.

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00:27:34.800 --> 00:27:40.160

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: The RFP has now been out for about a month.

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00:27:40.360 --> 00:27:42.040

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: the...

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00:27:42.250 --> 00:27:48.520

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: proposals are going to be due, I believe it's... is it Monday or Tuesday, Frank? I can't remember.

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00:27:48.520 --> 00:27:50.369

Frank Basler, Plymouth County: Monday the 29th.

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00:27:50.800 --> 00:28:04.060

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Monday the 29th, all the proposals will come in, and then Marion Institute, Plymouth County, and OCPC will review those proposals and select the consultant.

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00:28:04.060 --> 00:28:12.180

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Who's gonna be working with us. We anticipate that the consultant, will begin work by the end of October.

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00:28:12.200 --> 00:28:21.229

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So, our next meeting in October, I'm hoping we'll be able to introduce you all to that new consultant, or team of consultants.

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00:28:21.320 --> 00:28:39.969

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: They're going to be reporting to us here at the steering committee on a monthly basis. What exactly that looks like, I think, is going to depend on what their proposals contain. If you want to have a look at the RFP, it is a public document, just reach out to Frank.

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00:28:40.030 --> 00:28:47.199

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And he can send you a copy of that. This, little figure here that I'm showing you is from the RFP.

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00:28:47.370 --> 00:29:07.279

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: You'll see that it is a little bit vague. We do want them to look at food system infrastructure, we do want them to talk to stakeholders, we do want them to identify gaps and opportunities, but specifically how they go about doing that is going to be largely proposed by them.

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00:29:07.280 --> 00:29:25.850

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So at our first meeting, not sure if they'll be ready in October, that just might be, like, a getting-to-know-you kind of introductory meeting. We'll see how quickly, they're ready to hit the ground running, but definitely at the November meeting, we'll be talking about the specifics of what they're gonna do, and how they're proposing to do it, and they'll

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00:29:26.020 --> 00:29:36.990

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: be aiming to engage all of you, in trying to figure out if that's the right way to go about everything. So there are quite a few moving pieces between the work of

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00:29:37.180 --> 00:29:56.139

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: the future consultants, the work of the CART and the Marion Institute, and then all the other kind of participation stuff that we're going to be doing. There's going to be a lot of bits and pieces to pull in. And I know that you all have a lot of information as well, too, so Hampton sent me a really great list of

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00:29:56.140 --> 00:29:59.810

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: food pantries in the Plymouth area,

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00:29:59.890 --> 00:30:12.849

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Which is just amazing. It's an amazing resource. We want to gather that for the whole region. I know you all hold a lot of knowledge and expertise that we're going to be, you know, requiring and relying on over the coming months.

192

00:30:12.990 --> 00:30:29.629

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So that's where we're at with the RFP process. We did follow all state procurement processes and guidelines and laws and things. We've had quite a lot more interest, than, I really anticipated.

193

00:30:29.630 --> 00:30:46.749

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: We've had quite a few folks from outside of the New England area, request the RFP as well, too. We'll see who submits proposals, but we've had a lot of interest. So we're... we're excited, and we're hopeful that we're gonna have, you know, at least a few proposals to choose from.

194

00:30:47.220 --> 00:30:52.479

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Does anybody have any questions about the RFP, or that process?

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00:30:56.010 --> 00:31:12.280

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: No? Okay, cool. So, with that, last month, for those of you all who weren't able to make it, we talked quite a bit about how we're going to engage stakeholders and the general public in this project.

196

00:31:12.470 --> 00:31:32.160

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And there were a lot of great ideas and a lot of feedback that we shared. It seemed like there was consensus around the need to do focus groups and interviews, definitely. So once we get this additional consultant on board, we'll sit down with them in the Marion Institute and kind of figure out

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00:31:32.160 --> 00:31:39.199

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Who's going to do what and how many, of those focus groups and interviews, but those are definitely going to be a key component of the outreach.

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00:31:39.280 --> 00:31:44.670

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: We're definitely gonna do a region-wide public survey, so that will reach...

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00:31:45.230 --> 00:32:03.580

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: hopefully as many people as we possibly can, and we'll use both traditional media outlets as well as, you know, Facebook and other channels and networks to try and get to as many people as we can. We did, a regional survey for our, regional water plan, like.

200

00:32:03.820 --> 00:32:08.610

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: almost 2 years ago now, I think, and we had roughly, I think, about 1,400 replies.

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00:32:08.720 --> 00:32:16.439

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So I'm hopeful that we get, you know, similar here, if not more, because we're actually including a lot more communities in this project than we did in that one.

202

00:32:17.060 --> 00:32:19.680

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: But today I thought.

203

00:32:19.900 --> 00:32:30.609

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: it would be really good to hear from you guys who you think we need to talk to. So last time we talked about the methods, focus group, interview, community dinner, whatever.

204

00:32:31.000 --> 00:32:48.349

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And we talked only a little bit about who those key stakeholders are. So I know we mentioned food pantry coordinators as being super important to talk to as we go through this project. We talked a bit about how to reach folks who have lived experience of food insecurity.

205

00:32:48.350 --> 00:32:58.239

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: I think that's going to be a little bit more of a... of a delicate approach, that we'll be talking more about how best to hear from those folks directly.

206

00:32:58.270 --> 00:33:18.170

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: We talked a smidge about entrepreneurs in the food system, and how do we identify them and reach them. They sometimes kind of go under the radar until they, you know, blow up and become successful, so how do we reach those folks? And then we talked about actual growers really needing to be represented as well, too.

207

00:33:18.210 --> 00:33:33.109

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So apart from those four groups, do you guys have other thoughts for both either individuals, organizations, or just, like, collective groups of a type of stakeholder that you think we need to engage? I'd love to hear your thoughts on that.

208

00:33:33.510 --> 00:33:35.409

Liz Wiley: Yeah, Joanne, I'd like to,

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00:33:35.410 --> 00:33:35.900

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: I don't know.

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00:33:35.900 --> 00:33:46.540

Liz Wiley: A bit of info on that, too, that, Rita and I have experienced with, you know, we've started to launch this in Barnstable County, and

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00:33:46.540 --> 00:33:59.619

Liz Wiley: It's really been very helpful to, you know, when we talk with people, you're getting definitely different insights and different perspectives, and all helpful, and it's making this tool, the Carrot tool, more useful, as with every

212

00:33:59.650 --> 00:34:11.240

Liz Wiley: like, every time we talk with new people about it. So please know that that happens, too. And so something... some of the stuff that's come out of the work that we're doing in Barnstable is that

213

00:34:11.239 --> 00:34:20.599

Liz Wiley: I think we were clear that this CART tool was developed by the North American Food System Network in partnership with Indiana University.

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00:34:20.600 --> 00:34:25.659

Liz Wiley: So, very, you know, farmland-centric.

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00:34:25.989 --> 00:34:39.710

Liz Wiley: perspective, and what's missing from some of the language is, enough inclusive language around fisheries and aquaculture and shellfishing in our region, so...

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00:34:39.710 --> 00:34:48.060

Liz Wiley: I just want to, like, name that and put that out there to Plymouth, because it's something that we'll... we're gonna do some deeper dive and work with...

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00:34:48.060 --> 00:34:54.330

Liz Wiley: the folks in Barnstable to retweak some of that language that then you'll be seeing, you know.

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00:34:54.330 --> 00:35:18.410

Liz Wiley: it'll be different for you guys, and we need to circle back on some of that with Plymouth County, but the importance of, you know, we have a lot of more fisheries people that are being more outspoken and raising that is an issue. This is the benefit of having multi-sector stakeholders at the table, right? Because we have our blind spots, and we don't see something, and somebody else, another group is on here and can

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00:35:18.410 --> 00:35:25.919

Liz Wiley: start to say, hey, wait a minute, that's not really including this perspective, or this industry, or this sector, or whatever. So...

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00:35:26.210 --> 00:35:51.120

Liz Wiley: naming it, elevating it, and definitely saying, you know, it's always hard to get the producers, right, the shellfish people, the fisheries, but we really need to make sure that we're doing that. We've always, you know, looked at, like, okay, we can look at it as a perspective of doing focus groups with those people, and that's possible, and that is something that we will, you know, we're doing in other places.

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00:35:51.120 --> 00:35:54.459

Liz Wiley: and in Bristol County and stuff, but I do think...

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00:35:54.460 --> 00:36:11.049

Liz Wiley: you know, making sure that there's somebody that's elevating, and I know Meg's on here, you know, and is elevating farming and food production, but making sure somebody else is on here, fisheries, aquaculture, that's like, hey, this isn't... this language needs to be tweaked, or it's not...

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00:36:11.310 --> 00:36:17.999

Liz Wiley: clear how to answer it from this industry perspective. Nita, do you want to add to that a little bit? Because I just...

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00:36:18.480 --> 00:36:21.769

Liz Wiley: I think these are all things that we're learning as we go.

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00:36:21.770 --> 00:36:29.480

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: Yeah, and I think that it was, a really good reminder that sometimes when we're looking at

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00:36:29.730 --> 00:36:35.509

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: Engagement with different stakeholders in, in doing this project.

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00:36:35.690 --> 00:36:49.270

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: that... and just Liz and I were thinking back to how it's worked for us in Bristol, and then, even as we've started in Plymouth, and who's interested? Who is naturally gravitating towards doing this work, and then who isn't?

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00:36:49.340 --> 00:37:03.259

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: And thinking about how, you know, I think especially for the fishing industry, what we were told is that they couldn't even really see themselves in the carrot, and so how are they going to participate? And so that may be some of our experiences with

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00:37:03.360 --> 00:37:11.999

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: Even who's been participating in Bristol, and, you know, Joanne, as we've tried to get some interest from some of the,

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00:37:12.000 --> 00:37:25.780

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: shellfish in some of the fishing industries, you know, people might not be engaging because they don't see themselves in the carrot. And so I think that, you know, it's been called out for us in the fishing industry, so we're going to work on that, and that might help us get more

231

00:37:25.780 --> 00:37:37.819

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: people from that industry in, involved in Plymouth, but that also just really making sure that everyone, hears that from the point of view, if there's anyone that is

232

00:37:37.850 --> 00:37:49.870

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: doing this carrot work with us and feels like they're, not represented in the carrot, let us know. This is one tool. It's the tool that we have come across that we

233

00:37:49.870 --> 00:37:59.909

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: that we like, that we see the value in, but it's very much a work in progress. And we're also adapting it to New England, to Massachusetts, to southeastern Massachusetts.

234

00:37:59.910 --> 00:38:17.889

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: And so, if you don't see yourself, you know, we want this tool to work for our region, and we really want to hear about it. So, just, you know, really paying attention to the language that's in there. And, you know, I think that can happen within the county, it's obviously happening, you know, with Barnstable having such a strong

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00:38:17.960 --> 00:38:28.129

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: small, local fishing industry, commercial fishing industry, it was very apparent, but just throwing that out there. Language really matters, and we want to make sure that we hear about it.

236

00:38:28.890 --> 00:38:31.500

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So that's a great observation. Kevin, you had your hand up?

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00:38:34.840 --> 00:38:40.480

Kevin Cogan: It's not really related to, what was just spoken about, but... That's okay.

238

00:38:40.480 --> 00:38:41.170

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Go ahead.

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00:38:41.170 --> 00:38:52.480

Kevin Cogan: I feel like... translators, or, pastors... Shop owners of...

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00:38:53.140 --> 00:38:57.369

Kevin Cogan: maybe, I'm just thinking from Abington's perspective.

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00:38:57.480 --> 00:39:03.110

Kevin Cogan: What... who we included in, our conversations with MVP 2.0.

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00:39:03.300 --> 00:39:09.610

Kevin Cogan: We have, Brazilian stores, like, local Brazilian stores.

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00:39:09.840 --> 00:39:15.890

Kevin Cogan: We included them in the room, in the discussions, so...

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00:39:16.480 --> 00:39:24.189

Kevin Cogan: Like, if they, if they wanted to participate, so... Because, yeah.

245

00:39:24.190 --> 00:39:24.860

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah.

246

00:39:25.080 --> 00:39:41.800

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah, no, that's a really good point. I think, one of the things across the board at the municipal planning level that we constantly deal with is that you always kind of see the same faces turn up at everything, and oftentimes, it's...

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00:39:41.910 --> 00:39:52.559

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: not representative of our broader communities. So, culturally, ethnically, racially, age-wise,

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00:39:52.830 --> 00:40:01.150

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: there are so many other folks that often we don't hear from, and I think that's going to be the real challenge for this project.

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00:40:01.300 --> 00:40:05.859

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: We have tried to lead,

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00:40:07.040 --> 00:40:25.909

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: from our best ability, really participatory projects in communities like, for example, Brockton, which is very diverse across the board in every which way. And it's hard. It's really hard. It's hard to engage folks for, I think, a number of reasons. Everybody has their own theory why young people, for example, are so hard to get to.

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00:40:25.910 --> 00:40:37.010

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Or folks whose, language isn't English, even when we provide translation services, nobody participates. I think that's going to be a huge challenge, so...

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00:40:37.040 --> 00:40:53.739

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: you know, I'm excited that Abington, and I know Easton as well, has gone through the 2.0 process, although they're not with us on our meeting here today. The MVP program is trying to emphasize that, so I think, Kevin, if you and Liz can share maybe a little bit about how you guys managed to reach out to

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00:40:53.900 --> 00:41:01.699

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: your underrepresented communities. I'm particularly interested in, like, your Brazilian shop that you were mentioning. How did you guys get those folks involved?

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00:41:02.590 --> 00:41:10.029

Kevin Cogan: I mean, the Brazilian, shops weren't necessarily involved, but we reached out to them, and...

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00:41:10.370 --> 00:41:17.200

Kevin Cogan: We asked them, like, and we gave them flyers, and walked... and we...

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00:41:17.640 --> 00:41:24.910

Kevin Cogan: Are good neighbors to them, and, they were receptive and welcoming to us, coming in.

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00:41:25.060 --> 00:41:29.250

Kevin Cogan: And speaking to them, they just never got back to us with surveys.

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00:41:29.250 --> 00:41:29.630

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Mmm.

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00:41:29.630 --> 00:41:33.759

Kevin Cogan: There was a,

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00:41:34.440 --> 00:41:39.419

Kevin Cogan: A pastor on our MVP 2.0 committee.

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00:41:39.760 --> 00:41:42.240

Kevin Cogan: But he had to step down,

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00:41:42.770 --> 00:41:47.530

Kevin Cogan: Because of, like, personal reasons, he had a lot going on at his church.

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00:41:47.950 --> 00:41:55.489

Kevin Cogan: And also, for our community gardens, we are...

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00:41:55.690 --> 00:42:02.980

Kevin Cogan: Planning... we were thinking of having one of the gardens over, at one of

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00:42:03.090 --> 00:42:05.080

Kevin Cogan: the, churches.

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00:42:05.280 --> 00:42:11.420

Kevin Cogan: Brazilian, churches. So...

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00:42:11.620 --> 00:42:14.719

Kevin Cogan: Yeah, the remote gardens that Liz was talking about earlier.

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00:42:15.190 --> 00:42:16.180

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So...

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00:42:16.250 --> 00:42:23.019

Kevin Cogan: To, to, to include... That population. The pastor at that parish

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00:42:23.170 --> 00:42:29.390

Kevin Cogan: Has, like, his own garden that he grows in the back of his church, so...

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00:42:29.690 --> 00:42:38.450

Kevin Cogan: We know that there's an interest, maybe? So, if he can... Reach out to his congregation.

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00:42:38.720 --> 00:42:42.329

Kevin Cogan: He seemed interested when we went out and visited him.

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00:42:42.480 --> 00:42:45.289

Kevin Cogan: And he was all excited, so...

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00:42:45.960 --> 00:42:54.860

Kevin Cogan: I think it's just a matter of... Putting in the effort to... Try and, like, be...

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00:42:55.520 --> 00:42:59.719

Kevin Cogan: I got a human level, kind of just connect with them at first.

276

00:42:59.950 --> 00:43:05.190

Kevin Cogan: But not expect too much. I think that's the key, is really just not expect too much.

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00:43:05.960 --> 00:43:08.140

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Karen, you had your hand up?

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00:43:09.570 --> 00:43:22.790

Karen Barry: Yes, we are in the process of creating, basically, like, a, a clergy corps, if you will, so a lot of various,

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00:43:23.030 --> 00:43:48.020

Karen Barry: priests, clergy members, you know, pretty much going across the whole spectrum, bringing them together for certain trainings. We kind of started that with the Plymouth Drug Abuse Task Force years ago, so the core was kind of there, and they've just recently come back, and there are a number of issues you want to work on. So I think that, once we get them together, because it's kind of being built from the inside.

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00:43:48.020 --> 00:43:54.730

Karen Barry: side with the members of the, of the clergy, we could maybe then broach

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00:43:54.730 --> 00:44:07.519

Karen Barry: some of this work with them, too, and see how we can incorporate people, get their voices, because it'll be various communities. It won't be just one. And the second thought I had on the aquaculture

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00:44:07.520 --> 00:44:19.470

Karen Barry: Is that I reached out to, Joby Norton, who has done some of the processing of our fish for, the food pantries.

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00:44:19.570 --> 00:44:26.999

Karen Barry: And he sits on the, the watershed, the North and South River watershed, and he's really connected.

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00:44:27.000 --> 00:44:41.629

Karen Barry: So, between that, and some of the, Dexbury farmers for aquaculture, we'll put out some feelers and see if there'll be people who might want to step in to be a voice on the steering committee to help.

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00:44:41.640 --> 00:44:45.169

Karen Barry: Kind of get that perspective, and...

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00:44:45.720 --> 00:45:02.799

Karen Barry: kind of address what you... you were saying earlier about... just kind of have a void there. So, I'll let you know what I find out, and I'll keep you posted on when we're having the first Clergy Corps, ministry... it's really Ministry Corps, meeting.

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00:45:03.890 --> 00:45:06.880

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: That's great. Is that for Plymouth County-wide, Karen?

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00:45:07.270 --> 00:45:07.860

Karen Barry: Yes.

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00:45:07.860 --> 00:45:10.889

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah, awesome. That's great. Marisol?

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00:45:14.040 --> 00:45:16.939

Marisol Torres: Hi, again. I just have a couple of,

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00:45:17.150 --> 00:45:35.390

Marisol Torres: like, I guess, points and questions. Yeah. With our new administration, we are going to be losing tracking food insecurity in the entire United States. So, are we going to be doing... how is... how are we handling that? Are we going to be doing surveys? Are we going to be doing... what are we going to do to...

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00:45:35.430 --> 00:45:40.689

Marisol Torres: You know, keep track of where the food insecurity is, and how,

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00:45:41.370 --> 00:45:44.139

Marisol Torres: This program could benefit those communities.

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00:45:44.770 --> 00:45:52.219

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah, I think that's... that's a super important question. We, we've chatted a little bit about this internally, and,

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00:45:53.200 --> 00:45:54.570

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: be...

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00:45:54.750 --> 00:46:08.539

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Consultants that we hire, one of the first things that we have for them to do is to actually evaluate what information is

available in our region, in general, related to food systems at any... at any level.

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00:46:08.540 --> 00:46:18.189

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So they'll review the community plans that we have, they'll review, like, Hampton's group, for example, in Plymouth will want to identify groups that are, for example, trying to map or track

298

00:46:18.190 --> 00:46:32.530

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: or promote food pantries in their area, things like that, too. So, we'll get a really good understanding of what's there, but I think that what we're gonna find is, exactly as you've said, that a lot of the resources that we've traditionally relied on to give us the information that we need.

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00:46:32.650 --> 00:46:46.939

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: may not be there next year, or whenever. So I think that's... that's a really good point, and I think that's definitely something we're going to want to address in the action plan, is to figure out what we have, and what we need, and how we can kind of be self-sufficient in that respect, I think, going forward.

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00:46:47.230 --> 00:46:49.390

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Liz, do you have your hand up, or...

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00:46:49.390 --> 00:46:58.190

Liz Wiley: Yeah, I just wanted to comment to... a couple of comments. I'm going to try to remember all of the ones that I wanted to comment to. Marisol, I think that's a really important

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00:46:58.460 --> 00:47:23.029

Liz Wiley: issue that you're raising, and having done our food system assessment in the past, yeah, we do rely somewhat on that USDA data. A lot of the food insecurity data that we also relied on, and I don't know how overlapped they are, came from Feeding America, came from the Greater Boston Food Bank, came from the entities that I think will still double down and try to get that work

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00:47:23.030 --> 00:47:44.659

Liz Wiley: done because of the importance of it. And, you know, this is why food system assessments, regional food system assessments, are important, because they are doing it. And it's one of the reasons why Rita and I gravitate towards the carrot as a component of a food system assessment, because it provides

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00:47:44.940 --> 00:47:52.709

Liz Wiley: You all, you, the people that are doing the work, that are boots on the ground, the ability to continually, like.

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00:47:52.710 --> 00:48:10.439

Liz Wiley: own that data, update that data, track that data in a way that traditional food system assessments don't do, right? Like, traditional food system assessments are so reliant on that secondary data that they are pulling from other reports, and what we like

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00:48:10.890 --> 00:48:34.999

Liz Wiley: and what we're hoping that we'll see with the care is that it's a tool that you can consistently, you know, in between food system assessments that we want to do every 5 years, 5 years, you're able to update that data, so there's that. And I think that there was another... I think, Kevin, you were talking a little bit about, like, engagement with different populations and individuals, especially individuals that are...

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00:48:35.000 --> 00:48:44.100

Liz Wiley: That are experiencing food insecurity and making sure that they're, you know, how do you get them to fill out surveys and get their voice and get their input?

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00:48:45.110 --> 00:48:54.100

Liz Wiley: We had, during our 2021 food system assessment, we had nearly 500, I think it was close to 500, definitely over 400.

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00:48:54.100 --> 00:49:09.640

Liz Wiley: surveys from food insecure individuals that were, like, English was not their first language, and it was because we partnered with, the New Bedford Immigrants Assistance Center, and they did the application with their guests, and...

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00:49:09.640 --> 00:49:24.070

Liz Wiley: you know, filled those out for them and submitted them to us, which was incredible and really valuable information that we still use all the time. So there are ways of, like, doing some of that stuff, too, and keeping that data

311

00:49:24.070 --> 00:49:38.420

Liz Wiley: data going, and then the other point that I wanted to make, I think it was Karen, I think you elevating that... the individual that you were talking about as a person that should be involved, I think that's the key, is like... and that's...

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00:49:38.420 --> 00:49:46.399

Liz Wiley: certainly the key of what we're seeing and experiencing in Barnstable, and even in Bristol County with our... with our care at work, is that

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00:49:46.670 --> 00:50:02.999

Liz Wiley: It's gonna be really hard to get the shell fishermen at the table, or the farmers at the table, but having somebody that works with them all the time, and knows what their issues are, and can elevate their issues for them, sort of their spokesperson, or, you know, that's...

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00:50:03.750 --> 00:50:20.319

Liz Wiley: really, really helpful. I mean, and then maybe doing, like, a once-off, you know, focus group with the shell fishermen, or with the fishermen and stuff, but to try to get them, I just... we've had a really hard time getting that, and... go ahead, I see your hand, I see Karen's hand.

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00:50:20.320 --> 00:50:23.940

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah, let me go back to Marisol, though, because she hadn't finished her thoughts.

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00:50:25.820 --> 00:50:27.630

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Oh, you're muted, Marisol, sorry.

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00:50:29.410 --> 00:50:43.930

Marisol Torres: Sorry about that. I also wanted to ask about community fridges, because, as a Brockton native, right, and we, my program serves Plymouth County, but, mostly Greater Brockton. So, we...

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00:50:44.260 --> 00:50:46.500

Marisol Torres: I know that community fridges exist.

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00:50:46.530 --> 00:50:50.430

Marisol Torres: But, as far as Brockton, I don't think it was a successful launch.

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00:50:50.430 --> 00:51:06.779

Marisol Torres: when we did try Community Fridge here, and I'm just wondering if that's something that we are also looking into, like, creating more community fridges, more opportunity for people to access food. I know Brockton, I mean, not Brockton, Bamzee has a relationship currently with Spoonfuls.

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00:51:07.690 --> 00:51:21.550

Marisol Torres: on a smaller scale. Like, we're getting a small amount of food to a small pantry. We are in the talks now of creating maybe a bigger system, because we have pantries here, but they're on a monthly basis. Some of them are on a 3-month

322

00:51:21.550 --> 00:51:32.969

Marisol Torres: basis, and that's not really sustainable in feeding the community. So, BAMSI is in talks now of, well, we're gonna create a drop-in center. That's one of the things we're doing, but

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00:51:33.080 --> 00:51:47.699

Marisol Torres: part of that drop-in center needs to be a weekly food delivery, where we can give food out to everyone. Low barrier, and get food out to everyone. So we are in the talks of getting that done, but in the meantime, I'm just thinking about.

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00:51:47.770 --> 00:51:54.690

Marisol Torres: how we could get food to everyone. And community fridges do work, right? They do work,

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00:51:54.970 --> 00:52:10.350

Marisol Torres: it just depends on your community, you know? If they're going to, you know, disrespect the fridges and cause problems with the fridges. But, they do work, and we are interested in supporting a community fridge, just maybe not...

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00:52:10.860 --> 00:52:18.449

Marisol Torres: completely knowing how to get there. Also, I wanted to ask about, you said 2.0 training? What is that? What is that?

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00:52:18.450 --> 00:52:36.519

Joanne Zygmunt, OCP: Yeah, so, okay, so, so on your community fridge note, yes, absolutely. So, the instructions for the consultants that we're hiring is that we want to look at traditional infrastructure, but we also want to look at all of these new and innovative and kind of micro-style solutions as well, too. So I know,

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00:52:36.520 --> 00:52:53.110

Joanne Zygmunt, OCP: somebody mentioned to me as well, like, I don't know if you've heard of Little Free Libraries? They're little boxes where you can get books and just pick them up, usually in multiple places in a community. Same idea for, like, canned goods and non-perishables. Can we just have a whole bunch of those in town, or something like that? So, yeah, absolutely, that's going to be something our consultants look for.

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00:52:53.110 --> 00:53:04.470

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: On the 2.0 thing, so that is a state grant program. Liz, or I don't know, I think Abington... Liz is still on. Liz, I don't know if you can maybe pop...

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00:53:04.470 --> 00:53:20.430

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: a link into the chat for the 2.0 program, if you could, just so Marisol can get a feel for that, but it's a state grant program, and it's partly funding what we're doing here, and it seeks to build resilience in our communities, especially linked and connected to climate change.

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00:53:22.100 --> 00:53:25.250

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: I'm gonna go over to Nikki, I think Nikki had her hand up.

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00:53:27.390 --> 00:53:44.159

Nikki Galibois: Yeah, just, getting back to the point previously about local data around food insecurity. So, community action agencies like South Shore, we're all required to do community needs assessments every 3 years, and we're actually heading into that cycle.

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00:53:44.270 --> 00:53:50.280

Nikki Galibois: This fall and spring, and so it's a really kind of timely process, so those of us who

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00:53:50.490 --> 00:54:02.839

Nikki Galibois: you know, work in the food insecurity area. We'll be gathering a lot of information, first-person information from folks, about their experiences with

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00:54:03.250 --> 00:54:08.309

Nikki Galibois: Food access, food insecurity, nutrition, things of that sort, and

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00:54:08.540 --> 00:54:21.429

Nikki Galibois: you know, so we'll be... we'll be collecting that information, we'll be happy to share it, and I think it's, you know, it sort of aligns really nicely with what's happening here with this group and other, you know, other activities,

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00:54:22.320 --> 00:54:35.450

Nikki Galibois: And so there are other community action agencies that are in Plymouth County besides us who are, certainly also doing this, going through the same process, and so we might be able to pull some of their data together as well.

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00:54:35.710 --> 00:54:39.540

Nikki Galibois: And then also, I do know through...

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00:54:39.660 --> 00:54:46.529

Nikki Galibois: Beth Israel, I'm on their Community Benefits Advisory Committee. So Beth, there's Israel and Lima.

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00:54:47.250 --> 00:55:06.119

Nikki Galibois: they, are working on their community health needs assessment, and sort of the tail end of that process, and food insecurity has been identified as one of the, sort of areas of focus, and particularly looking at social determinants of health. So I think that there's a couple of other

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00:55:06.220 --> 00:55:11.999

Nikki Galibois: Data sources, that are available at the local level that will sort of help to

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00:55:12.240 --> 00:55:17.660

Nikki Galibois: flesh out what's missing, once the USDA data is gone.

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00:55:18.040 --> 00:55:25.229

Nikki Galibois: Certainly not to the same scale, but in some ways, you know, the national data sets never really give us

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00:55:25.580 --> 00:55:37.140

Nikki Galibois: the, you know, the really fine, granular data at our small town Plimpton level and things like that. So, you know, so really the local data is very, very helpful.

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00:55:37.360 --> 00:55:43.109

Nikki Galibois: And, you know, we'll be available, assuming that we're all still here.

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00:55:43.300 --> 00:55:45.450

Nikki Galibois: Come October 1st.

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00:55:45.750 --> 00:55:46.290

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah.

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00:55:47.010 --> 00:55:50.439

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: That's great, Nikki, thank you. Anybody else have any thoughts?

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00:55:51.550 --> 00:55:56.069

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Or more broadly, any ideas for who we have to absolutely make sure that we engage?

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00:56:01.030 --> 00:56:06.499

Marisol Torres: Really quick, when you say absolutely have to engage, are you talking about, person served, or...

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00:56:06.920 --> 00:56:09.230

Marisol Torres: People who could help with this?

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00:56:09.880 --> 00:56:25.880

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Either, either one. I think... I think what we're discovering is because we're talking about food growing all the way up to, like, food waste and everything along the way, there's... anybody, as Rita says, anybody who eats food is kind of involved in our project, and so how do we...

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00:56:25.880 --> 00:56:33.769

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Hear the most from the most people, and who are the ones that we absolutely don't want to miss, that have, kind of, experience or expertise?

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00:56:33.890 --> 00:56:36.939

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: That we really need to incorporate into the plan.

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00:56:37.420 --> 00:56:39.639

Marisol Torres: For Brockton, I have to say.

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00:56:40.040 --> 00:56:41.779

Marisol Torres: the Vicente supermarkets.

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00:56:42.280 --> 00:56:42.630

Marisol Torres: Yeah.

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00:56:42.970 --> 00:56:44.829

Marisol Torres: Yeah, they, they should absolutely.

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00:56:44.830 --> 00:56:46.150

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: They're on our list, yep.

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00:56:46.150 --> 00:56:50.999

Marisol Torres: Great, great, because not only do they own supermarkets, they own quite a bit of real estate, so... Yeah.

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00:56:51.450 --> 00:56:53.690

Marisol Torres: And they assist in all of that.

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00:56:54.160 --> 00:57:04.959

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah, we've run quite a few projects in Brockton where they've handed out, like, survey material to folks and bags and stuff like that, too, so they're very community engaged. So they're a great, a great channel.

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00:57:05.190 --> 00:57:09.210

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Thank you. John? John vanquien, you've got your hand up.

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00:57:09.210 --> 00:57:10.970

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: And Kaiken. Yeah.

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00:57:10.970 --> 00:57:12.019

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: I can, sorry, John.

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00:57:12.020 --> 00:57:16.060

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: Was just gonna mention the Brockton Area Hunger Network Co-op.

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00:57:16.230 --> 00:57:20.190

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: Which is all the food banks in Brockton.

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00:57:20.460 --> 00:57:25.259

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: Has the, as the co-op card.

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00:57:25.460 --> 00:57:35.559

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: that... It has demographic data for all of the people that use the food pantries.

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00:57:36.450 --> 00:57:39.450

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: In town, or in the area.

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00:57:40.310 --> 00:57:47.709

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: and... The farmer's market is going to start participating in that next year.

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00:57:48.010 --> 00:57:54.069

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: Or start participating in the tracking as well next year, but there is a large data set.

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00:57:54.950 --> 00:58:02.339

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: But they've... collected over the past several years. The... the co-op card.

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00:58:02.880 --> 00:58:06.289

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Oh, great. Josh, who is the point person for that co-op?

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00:58:07.190 --> 00:58:10.370

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: Laura Streis at Charity Guild.

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00:58:11.190 --> 00:58:11.870

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Okay.

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00:58:15.570 --> 00:58:23.030

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah, we'll definitely reach out to them. I know we've reached out to Charity Guild, but we haven't had any response yet, but I'll see who specifically we've reached out to, so...

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00:58:24.800 --> 00:58:30.079

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Cool. Okay. Oh, I was also gonna say, if...

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00:58:30.530 --> 00:58:38.909

Jon Van Kuiken-Brockton Farmers Market: We do have the community tent available at the market if you want to reach some of the customers directly.

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00:58:40.000 --> 00:58:49.840

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah, definitely. So, Carrie actually... Carrie and I had a conversation a few weeks ago about farmers markets and how we can use them to reach folks, so I think

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00:58:50.040 --> 00:59:02.139

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: for this season, which typically, I think, for most farmers' markets, kind of ends in October, I'm not sure we're gonna make anything happen, but when the new season starts up, then we're absolutely going to use them, for sure.

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00:59:05.830 --> 00:59:09.990

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Anybody else got any thoughts? We've got a couple minutes left.

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00:59:13.110 --> 00:59:13.890

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: No?

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00:59:14.680 --> 00:59:38.009

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah, please, please continue to think about this. My goal for the next meeting is we'll hopefully have an introduction from the consultants that we select, but I'll also write up a plan, and start putting together a stakeholder list so we can start seeing everything on paper, so we can more easily identify, you know, who's missing and who's not.

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00:59:39.190 --> 00:59:55.430

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: I think for me, too, one of the big groups that I've been thinking about, too, is younger people and younger families, and how do we engage with them? They're often a really, really challenging group to get in touch with. There might be some opportunity through schools.

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00:59:55.580 --> 01:00:04.689

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Parental permission is always an issue if you're talking about folks under 18, but that's another area that we're kind of thinking about.

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01:00:04.980 --> 01:00:09.230

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: So, you know, keep the... keep the wheels turning. Yeah, Carrie, you had a thought?

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01:00:09.970 --> 01:00:15.000

Kerrie Lirosi: I did. I was thinking schools. I know that there's an institutional component,

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01:00:15.070 --> 01:00:31.219

Kerrie Lirosi: there are also homeschool groups, you know, even perhaps through the library. That's a good point. You know, because those voices will be left out of the more institutional conversations. I also wanted to mention, I was aware that there was an Indigenous food sovereignty

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01:00:31.220 --> 01:00:35.109

Kerrie Lirosi: program on Tuesday, I wasn't able to go.

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01:00:35.150 --> 01:00:50.009

Kerrie Lirosi: But I'm sure somewhere you have Indigenous groups, targeted within the scope of the plan, but I'm also curious, any Indigenous leaders, has there been direct contact with maybe bringing them in to either the.

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01:00:50.010 --> 01:00:50.780

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah.

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01:00:50.780 --> 01:00:52.409

Kerrie Lirosi: CAB, or this group.

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01:00:53.140 --> 01:01:08.939

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yep, so, I know, I know that Marion Institute, through their other processes, has engaged a lot. In our area, there is the Herring Pond Tribe, based in Plymouth, so we've engaged, through Melissa Ferretti, their chairwoman.

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01:01:09.000 --> 01:01:24.460

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: On involving them in this project. I think, they're... they're a small group, and I think their time is very limited, so they haven't participated in any meetings, but they are aware, and they are on our list of people to reach out to directly, to, like, interview, or

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01:01:24.460 --> 01:01:36.229

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Etc. I know that they've had a food project of their own that they've worked on, so we want to make sure that we wrap that in. As far as I'm aware right now, I think that's the only

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01:01:36.360 --> 01:01:43.750

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Only tribe in our county area.

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01:01:45.580 --> 01:01:52.260

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: But I know Marion Institute... I don't know, Rita, if you want to mention a little bit more broadly about Marion's work with those groups.

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01:01:55.680 --> 01:02:04.240

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: Yeah, we have, on the South Coast Food Policy Council, we have a representative from Picasset Poconoque.

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01:02:04.370 --> 01:02:16.119

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: And that... who is a regular part of our workgroup meetings and, contributed to our care and assessment in Bristol. And then we also have,

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01:02:17.070 --> 01:02:26.169

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: Is it... Liz, I... I think there's Herring Pond as well on the South Coast Food Policy Council now. They're a little bit newer.

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01:02:26.170 --> 01:02:29.820

Liz Wiley: Especially with the Aquinah, chairwoman. Yeah.

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01:02:31.780 --> 01:02:35.130

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: And, again, absolutely...

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01:02:35.330 --> 01:02:47.309

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: getting... having their participation is... is critical. And again, I think, Joanne, you've made a really good point about, you know, timing. Timing, the amount of time, the capacity, and...

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01:02:47.570 --> 01:02:53.200

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: definitely, Nate Irwin, who was our,

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01:02:53.470 --> 01:03:03.460

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: representative from the Picasso Poconoque, said that there's a lot of organizations that are trying to get their attention, and trying to.

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01:03:03.600 --> 01:03:15.379

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: get their input, and they just have to really be able to have the capacity to do that, and so pick and choose the projects that they can participate in. So, I think, again, this is something that...

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01:03:15.560 --> 01:03:22.900

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: I think of the work that we're doing with the carrot, and also this food systems work, is, you know, doing our best and...

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01:03:22.900 --> 01:03:40.869

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: just keep bringing people in when they're ready, and when they have the capacity, and that the door, even if we were to go and score Plymouth County next week, that for us, this CARED assessment in particular is one that is meant to be really looping back. It's not... it's not linear.

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01:03:41.320 --> 01:03:43.420

Rita Higgins, Marion Institute: It doesn't end, really, so...

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01:03:43.960 --> 01:03:45.750

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Yeah. Thanks, Frida.

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01:03:46.140 --> 01:04:03.799

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Super. So we, we're gonna wrap up the meeting today. This has all been hugely helpful, everybody. We've made a lot of notes here. All our recordings of meetings, as well as minutes and agenda, are all on our website. The link that Frank posted, when we began is in the chat.

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01:04:03.800 --> 01:04:14.860

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: We, are going to stick to the same schedule, so our next meeting of the steering committee is going to be on Wednesday, October 29th.

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01:04:14.860 --> 01:04:24.940

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: 11 to just before noon. And right after today's meeting, we do have the Community Advisory Board meeting, which is focusing on,

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01:04:25.240 --> 01:04:35.139

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: health and wellness indicators related to the food system, so I'm going to pop that link into the chat right now. If anybody does want to join, that's going to start at noon, so in a few minutes.

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01:04:35.460 --> 01:04:42.430

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: If in the meantime, you guys have additional thoughts, feel free to send them to me, or Rita, or Liz, or Frank.

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01:04:42.430 --> 01:05:01.849

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: And we'll make sure that we'll put them down on paper. I'm also planning on getting some outreach materials over to you guys in the coming weeks, so that when you're talking to people and letting them know about what's happening in the county with this food plan, you'll have some materials to rely on for them. Because as Rita said, I think

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01:05:01.850 --> 01:05:10.449

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: as we go along, especially over the next few months, up through Christmas, I think that, we're gonna get a lot more folks becoming more interested and wanting to join, so that's the hope.

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01:05:10.820 --> 01:05:13.230

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Anybody have any final thoughts that they want to share?

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01:05:16.030 --> 01:05:20.530

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: No? Good to go? Awesome. Alright, thank you everybody very much for your time today.

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01:05:20.890 --> 01:05:21.720

Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC: Bye-bye.