



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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Burlington Food Council & Legacy Steering Committee Joint Meeting July 20, 2004

Present: Abbie Nelson, FEED & NOFA-VT; Dana Hudson, FEED; Dan Cahill, A*VISTA Parks and Recreation; Lindsey Ketchel, Intervale Foundation; Joseph Kiefer, Food Works; Janine Kashimba, City Market; Megan Camp, Shelburne Farms; Christa Zehle, VT Children's Hospital, Physician; Joey Larson, FAHC; Erin Croom, UVM CRS; Doug Davis, BSD Food Service; Bonnie Acker, Edmunds PTO; Dia Davis, youth; Jennifer Larsen, interested citizen; Mark Marsh, Intervale Feasibility study; Kim Swartz, VT Dept of Health; Jim Flint, Friends of Burlington Gardens; Ben Zimmerman, A*VISTA Hunt Middle School; Dorigen Keeney, VT Campaign to End Childhood Hunger; Jane Knodell, Legacy Steering Committee; Nancy Wood, Burlington Business Association, Food Council and Legacy Steering Committee; Betsy Liley, BSD; Betsy Rosenbluth and Sandra O'Flaherty, Burlington Legacy Project. Emily Price, Burlington Legacy Project.

I. Introductions and Overview

- Everyone briefly present introduced themselves.
- This is Sandra's last Food Council meeting. Emily Price, the new Legacy Vista, will start her service on August 2nd.
- Joseph gave an introduction to the Growing Farms, Growing Minds Project and what has happened so far in terms of the Food Council process and food education. This project came directly out of the Legacy Town Meeting in 2002 when residents identified food as a priority for action. "It takes a village to raise a food policy." Food education is a way to expose people to new foods. People need sensory-based experiences with food. The assessment will be the base for creating a plan to implement a food policy in the schools that can also guide the agricultural economy, promote health, develop curriculum, build the community and bridges within the community. See the assessment draft for more information.
- The SuperSize Me fundraiser at the Roxy that was sponsored by City Market raised money for the Food Education Every Day (FEED) program in Burlington schools.

II. Assessment Findings to Date

- Sandra gave a powerpoint presentation highlighting each section of the draft assessment with key points highlighted from each section. Contact the Legacy Project for a copy of the powerpoint.
- Discussion during presentation:

- Doug will find the number of kids who are eligible for summer meals but aren't accessing them.
- Address gap in the summer meal program that kids would most likely eat at their own school. However, each school doesn't have a summer meal site. Sites must also have activities to go with meals; kids can't just go and eat.
- Need to add discussion of Burlington childcare centers that use the Child and Adult Care Food Program in the Beyond the School Food Environment section. Discuss how BSD Food Service used to provide food to childcare centers but because of new paperwork procedures many centers no longer bother. When childcare centers don't receive free meals parents have to pay for childcare, plus pack meals for their child, which could be difficult for struggling families.
- Discuss how the Intervale currently produces 6-7% of Burlington's fresh food, the goal is to produce 10%.
- Explore residents' perception of City Market. Find out if it is still an issue for residents or not.
- The Intervale is doing a feasibility study looking at creating a farm to school market between local farms and the Burlington School District. The market scope was expanded to include UVM purchasing because it is a bigger market and would be more attractive to farmers. The results of the study will be incorporated into the assessment soon.

III. Interpreting the Data (in small groups)

- 4 groups were formed, one focusing on each of the main sections of the assessment: 1) Food Education, 2) The School Food Environment, 3) Beyond the School Food Environment, 4) The Farm to School Connection
- Groups were asked to review their section and provide feedback. Four questions were provided to help guide comments:
 - What data should still be included in this section that is currently missing or needs expansion?
 - What connections should we look for to include in the analysis of this section?
 - What state, federal, or local policies are missing that support this section?
 - What do you see are the barriers, gaps, and opportunities in this section?
- Groups took notes on their feedback. Feedback from groups or individual comments should be email to Sandra (soflaherty@ci.burlington.vt.us) by Wednesday, July 28th. Any feedback given after that date must be sent to Emily Price or Betsy Rosenbluth. (eprice@ci.burlington.vt.us, brosenbluth@ci.burlington.vt.us)

V. Next Steps

- A timeline for the Food Assessment was presented for comments.
- A strategic PR campaign for healthy food and healthy choices was suggested to keep the Food Council's work in the public eye so that it can have the biggest impact.
- Parents of schoolchildren are interested in being involved.
- At the Legacy Town Meeting in December there should be sign ups for school food committees at each school.
- School Open Houses in the fall are a good place to showcase the Food Council. The Food Council should have table, or possibly make a presentation, or give a food demonstration.

- The BSD Food Service website could be expanded to include information on the Food Council's work. Doug is meeting with internet services to add features, such as putting money into children's accounts online, that would make the website more useful to parents so more will visit it.
- October 11-15 is National School Lunch Week. Abbie and Doug along with Ginger Farineau, the Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at EMS are working on. There is a possibility to bring activities to Edmunds Middle, and Hunt, as well as the Sustainable Schools Project schools Champlain and Barnes.
- Burlington Parks and Recreation has community celebrations on 8/19 and 8/20 at two of their summer meal sites. This is another good venue to show Food Council work and possibly showcase fresh, local foods.

VI. Next Meetings

- Because Labor Day is the first Monday in September, the Burlington Food Council will meet Monday, September 16th from 3:30-5:00. Location: Fletcher Free Library, Fletcher Room.
- The Legacy Steering Committee will meet Tuesday, September 21 from 4:00-5:30. Location: City Hall conference room 12.