

## **Bristol Farmers Market Manager Summary 11/1/2024**

This year felt very successful overall, and we had great reports from vendors and community members alike! Having managed much larger Shelburne FM for two seasons previously, there were systems that translated easily between the two markets for the smooth unfolding of my first Bristol Farmers Market Season as Manager.

In a nutshell, Bristol FM supported:

**51 Small Businesses**, including mine.

**10 Farmers**, up significantly from last season. I was a vendor last season and remember one regular farmer, but cannot speak to the details. All returning vendors reported increased sales over last season.

**8 Prepared Food Vendors**, two are intrepid immigrant families. We styled ourselves as a dinner market on a night that nothing else was open, and we are also the only Monday Market in the whole state! We developed real popularity by the end of the season.

**15+ Local Artisans**, whose businesses were incubated with us, two separate teenage vendors selling their art for the first time.

**5 Non Profit Organizations**- including All Earth Renewables, WIC distributing benefits at market, A child Fostering Program, the local Educators Union, and the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

**14 Musical Acts, and one small AV company** who we rented gear from. Some musical acts were repeating, all were high caliber musicians paid reasonably for their expertise, which made us an outlier among markets. We developed a reputation for truly great music at market every Monday night. Many customers sat around the music tent and listened to a whole hour or 2 on Monday evenings. Some days we had live music during the full 4 hours of market, and we now have a reputation along with Shelburne for hiring only the most talented of musicians. Thanks to their talent, Bristol FM is a great place to BE for vendors and customers alike on Market Day.

**5 Teen volunteers** traded their time for \$5 Market tokens, \$10 per hour of work to set up and break down market infrastructure and haul trash for us each week. Some of these kids are underprivileged, and on Mondays they had a wholesome place to be, where their help was crucial to our operation on Market Day, and they felt important to the community. They expressed disappointment when market season was over. Taylor from the Teen Hub can speak to the impact on the kids we know, but I believe it was positive overall.

Our last market of the season was a real party, and we had Lincoln Peak Vineyard pouring wine for our customers. That was popular with customers, went really well with the music, and I hope to welcome them back and continue that for all the Mondays next season, as well as inviting Hogback Brewing to do the same.

Thanks to the Bristol CORE Board for so much support, to Taylor and the teens for their help, and to the Select Board for helping secure the success of the Bristol Farmers Market.

I look forward to an even better season in 2025!