



Southeastern Massachusetts Fiber and Textile Roundtable: Exploring the Local Supply Chain from Farm to Finished Product

Presented by SEMAP, Amy DuFault Consulting, and Island Foundation

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

9:30-2:00 (followed by optional factory tour 2:00-3:00)

Hosted by Joseph Abboud Manufacturing Corporation,
689 Belleville Ave., New Bedford MA

AGENDA

Meeting Goal: To gain a better understanding of the range of local fiber resources, explore the extent of production capabilities, examine opportunities to collaborate in expanding our local fiber market, and identify barriers, needs, and next steps.

9:00-9:30 Coffee and Check-in

9:30-9:40 Welcome, Goals for the Meeting, Agenda Overview:

- Karen Schwalbe, Southeastern Mass. Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP)
- Amy DuFault, Amy DuFault Consulting
- Sarah Kelley, Island Foundation

9:40-10:10 Keynote: Eric Henry, President & CEO, TS Designs, Burlington, NC:
"Local and Transparent: Reshoring Textiles in North Carolina (and Beyond)"

10:10-10:50 Supply Chain Panel: Understanding Local Capacity Along the Chain

- Moderator: Amy DuFault
- Fiber Producer and Processor: Shelley and Chris Riley, Owners, Golden Touch Farm/New England Alpaca Fiber Pool
- Sourcing/Production: Kathryn Hildebrand, Founder & CEO, Good Clothing Co.; Eric Henry, President & CEO, TS Designs
- Production/Retail/Consumer Demand: Anthony Sapienza, President, Joseph Abboud Manufacturing Corporation
- Finance/Funding/Economic Development: Maria Gooch-Smith, Executive Director, South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation

10:50-10:55 Announcement of RISD Spring Intensive Partnership for design students: Kathleen Grevers, Senior Critic, RISD Apparel Design Department

10:55-11:00 Announcement of Fibershed Resources and Models: Jess Daniels, National Affiliate Organizer, Fibershed

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-12:30 Roundtables: Identify Challenges and Opportunities

Break into 5 or 6 tables based on assignments. Each table will include attendees representing:

- Fiber Producer
- Fiber Processor
- Sourcing/Production/Manufacturing
- Brand/Retail/Consumer Awareness
- Finance/Funding/Economic Development
- Professors, Designers, and other experts

Roundtable Questions:

- Ask each roundtable participant to briefly describe his/her role or business
- Ask each participant to identify the largest gap or challenge s/he perceives to expanding our local fiber market/production
- Do the same for biggest opportunity
- What perspectives are missing/who else should be involved/what are the next steps needed?

12:30 Lunch: Break, Bring Lunches to Tables

Catering by It's Thyme Catering, Westport, MA

1:00-1:30 Over Lunch: Roundtable Report Out

1:30-2:00 Wrap Up and Next Steps

2:00-3:00 Optional Factory Tour of the Joseph Abboud Manufacturing Corp.

Networking time available until 4:30 pm.