

WMHB Waterville 89.7 FM – Quarterly Issues Programs List

For 1st Quarter 2023, January 1st to March 31st

WMHB identified the following as issues significant to Waterville this quarter:

- A. Issue: What are the dividing lines that characterize our community? Where are these barriers that separate “us” and “them”? What do we do about them?

Discussion: Mentions of dividedness and diversity are littered throughout the regular conversations heard around Colby and the greater Waterville community. Division does indeed characterize many relationships, such as that between Colby and Waterville residents, between athletes and non-athletes, and between demographics of class, race, heritage, gender, and sex. The college is committed to “Diversity and Inclusivity,” but what does this look like in everyday life? How do we bridge the gaps that exist between these groups? How do we build empathy for those around us and become more accepting of other ways of living than ours? We suggested solutions and offered events and opportunities geared toward connecting diverse groups, humanizing those around us, and openly sharing differing opinions and cultures. We have reached out to individuals and departments, to bridge this gap through the medium that is FM radio.

Programming:

- a. Broadcast of “Hear the Queer” Radio Show
 - i. Time: 10:00-11:00pm
 - ii. Date: Fridays
 - iii. Duration: 1 hours per week, weeks (3 hours)
 - iv. Description: Hear the Queer is a compilation of queer artists, anthems, and soundtracks with an occasional update on queer politics and media. The show’s goal is to raise appreciation for music from the LGBTQ+ community and hear a wide array of queer music from “Lesbian Blues of the 1920s” to “Girl in Red!”

- b. Broadcast of “Comfortably Uncomfortable” Radio Show
 - i. Time: 1:00-2:00pm
 - ii. Date: Monday
 - iii. Duration: 1 hours per week, 3 weeks (3 hours)
 - iv. Description: The goal of this show is to create a safe, healthy, and interactive environment to talk about uncomfortable topics. “Comfortably Uncomfortable” invites a rotating group of community members and returning hosts to discuss issues of gender, sexuality, race, class, and politics which might be considered taboo or uncomfortable to talk about in American culture.

- c. Broadcast of “Things We Don’t Understand” Radio Show
 - i. Time: 5:00-6:00pm

- ii. Date: Wednesday
- iii. Duration: 1 hours, 4 weeks (4 hours)
- iv. Description: In this program, hosts identify questions about life and how things work, pose them to each other, and then do research and find special guests who can help answer our questions. Often, these questions intersect with national political or cultural issues.

- B. Issue: What brings together the community of Waterville? What connects Colby College to the greater Waterville community, and what do residents in Waterville share in common with each other?

Discussion: Waterville is growing somewhat quickly and new challenges have arisen within the city in terms of connecting new residents and the similarly increasing population for Colby College to one another. This has less to do with the previous discussion of dividing lines and more to do with an emerging sense of diversity and growth in Waterville. Both of these emerging traits are often accompanied by more alienation and less shared common ground between residents. We believe that public-facing, participation-focused radio programming and community events will help facilitate new relationships within the growing city.

Programming:

- d. Broadcast of "Top Shelf Radio" Radio Show
 - i. Time: 12:00pm - 1:30pm
 - ii. Date: Saturday
 - iii. Duration: 1:30 hour per week, 4 weeks (6 hours)
 - iv. Description: This show is a sports talk show, mainly focused on NHL and local hockey. Crucially, this show thrives on audience members calling in and contributing their anecdotes and opinions on the weekly topics. This radio works to connect friendly and, sometimes frequent, voices across Waterville on a topic that all listeners share a mutual interest in.
- e. Broadcast of Mental Health PSAs provided by the National Association of Broadcasters. (Hourly)
 - ii. Description: A number of PSAs about mental health and managing stress are played at the top of every hour.