



TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

Economic Development Council Via Teleconference Minutes of April 30, 2020

Members Present: Mary Richter, Jay Hooper, Ken Cadow,

Guests: Peter Reed, Julie Iffland, Dan Bennett, Andrea Gould Easton, Maury Smith, Mark MacDonald, Bob Haynes, Valerie Schoolcraft, Mike Reiderer, Sonny Holt

Town of Randolph: Adolfo Bailon, Joshua Jerome

Selectboard Liaison: Perry Armstrong

Public Attendees: None

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment – None present

3. CARES ACT – April 24, 2020

4. Business outreach

- RAMAN (Randolph Area Mutual-Aid Network) <https://racdc.com/covid19>
RAMAN Fund for CoVID-19 Response
Discussions for meals with National Guard, unable to get direct assistance from the Guard, however RAMAN can reach.
- Vermont Revolving Loan Fund
Josh has not received any word from ACCD or redirecting applications. Bob has an RDC (Regional Development Corporations) meeting in the morning, need to determine how many applications and have ACCD be the central clearinghouse and have them match up with RDC. They will do an initial vetting and where the best fit would be. RDCs have some concerns with no personal guarantees, who is doing the underwriting. It has some problems, but they will publicize there are funds in place. There are small towns who have several hundred thousand in funds and one town who has \$1M sitting dormant for years and does not know what to do with it. Some RDCs received funds from USDA or other state funds there is interest due on them and RDCs are responsible and it may be difficult lending that money the RDC or town needs to be comfortable with the borrower. Bob will circulate an update.

Josh asked if the State could commandeer these funds if the towns do not want to release them. Bob does not think there would be a problem as the RDCs are cooperative and move along as many people did not qualify for the PPP or EDIL loans.

- Small Business Support
Business Survey

Josh updated the group only 30 businesses responded out of 139. 14% of the respondents are fully operational, 45% of the respondents did not apply for any SBA funding, only 14% reached out to SBDC. 30 responses are not a lot and need at least 60 to have a better understanding of the business climate.

5. Coronavirus Pandemic (CoVID-19) Local Testing and Economic Recovery Work

Dan reported Gifford is developing a protocol for 40-50 asymptomatic people a day/200 a week testing people for active virus and contact tracing trying to avoid an outbreak from happening. The antibody testing is not widespread at this moment and does not appear to be reliable.

Next week Gifford will be doing some logistics testing and then would work with members within the community to identify where to get random sample of people to test on a regular basis and will be reaching out to Maury and Marcus. Some thoughts are Meals on Wheels, Sheriff Bohnyak's deputies and some of the businesses.

Maury's challenge is trying to understand the communication piece on a State level and what we are trying to do locally. Also hearing from businesses and help them open in a smart way due to testing limitations.

Bob forwarded "Need Guidance on Restarting Your Manufacturing Operation? Join our live forum this Friday, May 1!" invitation to the group.

Gifford is willing to help and send non testing / screening guidelines to businesses.

Active groups who want to be involved send list to Mary and she will forward to Dan to start next week.

Department of Health needs to take ownership and set of protocol, process, and funding. Dan will bring to Dr. Levine's attention again. Local communities need to be proactive. Need a plan for funds from the State or another source to continue testing on a local level.

Andrea would like a communique from Dan to send to their Chamber members.

6. Vermont Technical College

Jay asked how the community, businesses and others can reach out to the Legislature and others on making the case of VTC's value in central Vermont and other areas within the state.

Bob reported that the task force groups will formulate an overall plan. Pat Moulton (VTC), Trini Brassard, Perry Armstrong (Facility analysis), Sam Lincoln, Adolfo Bailon, Joshua Jerome (letter to Trustees). State Legislatures; Mark MacDonald, Jay Hooper, and Peter Reed.

Josh will post the letter to the Trustees on the town website and Facebook page.

Mike committed there will be Stagecoach transportation from the campus to town five times a day, including evening services.

Mark MacDonald concurred the presence of VTC not only as a local institution as the presence is widespread throughout Vermont.

Perry will be meeting with Jed on all properties.

Other Business

4th of July Parade

Andrea wanted to know if we will proceed with a parade this year due to CoVID-19. Adolfo advised to plan as is with a Go/No decision to be made on June 1st. Andrea to reach out to Haidi.

Need to communicate and ensure social distancing and masks protocols are in place. Should be able to spread out along the parade line.

The fireworks will go as planned. The all Alumni banquet has been postponed to 2021. However, encourage class reunions to go ahead.

Belmain's Building

Bob has been in touch with Jeremy and the cheese facility will be coming to town. Waiting for banks and appraisals.

Adjourned: 6:19 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mary V. Richter, Chair