



TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

Economic Development Council Via Teleconference Minutes of May 7, 2020

Members Present: Mary Richter, Jay Hooper,
Guests: Peter Reed, Dan Bennett, Maury Smith, Bob Haynes,
Town of Randolph: Joshua Jerome
Selectboard Liaison: Perry Armstrong
Public Attendees: None

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment – None present

3. Business outreach

- RAMAN (Randolph Area Mutual-Aid Network) <https://racdc.com/covid19>
RAMAN Fund for CoVID-19 Response
Update tabled to next meeting
- Vermont Revolving Loan Fund
Bob may have some additional details on Fri, May 8th from ACCD.
ACCD is reconsidering personal guarantees after some pushback.
Process should be reasonable. More details to follow.
- Small Business Support
Business Survey
No additional surveys submitted, it appears everyone is waiting for the next set of addendums from the Governor and ACCD. There is no lead time to prepare and next week more businesses will be opening, and we will adjust accordingly.
There are some articles that EDIL and PPP loans will be running out of funds in five days. Looks like farms and agriculture will be eligible for funds with a cap on the EDIL loan of \$150K to \$2M.

Looks like funds did were not calculated properly and businesses received larger loans that were meant for smaller enterprises.

4. Coronavirus Pandemic (CoVID-19)

Local Testing and Economic Recovery Work

Dan received notice that GMC will be getting a portion of the \$1M Federal Grant for testing that will help going forward.

There will be a meeting on Fri, May 8th with folks from GMC, Maury, and Marcus to converge testing and the economic recovery plan. Testing and random testing for GMC employees and to expand to the community. There is another group working on how to approach the community on an economic recovery for businesses to have a certainty they are meeting the different governmental requirements to open.

Gifford started some additional testing and trying to get the logistics together with a drive thru testing at the South end of the GMC campus. There will be a need to do some quality checks with the number of tests on a given day, is the process they put in place working, how quick is the turnaround time of the tests that is has been done since Mon, May 4th, so far everything looks good, this will allow the conversation with Maury and Marcus on how to roll this out to the wider community.

How will GMC engage with businesses, non-profits, vulnerable populations, and the general community for testing. The additional funding will allow GMC to do testing for an extended period of time. The goal is to meet the different requirements that the businesses must meet and identify the asymptomatic people who are CoVID positive and the ability to do contact tracing and avoid community wide health crisis. GMC is getting close to what needs to be done and have a community approach. In the coming days, the groups will tie up loose ends to avoid miscommunication or inability to produce desired outcome. There needs to be a systematic process of getting people into testing and a process of those who test positive and contact tracking.

Peter has been approached to sign up for contact tracing and if Dan has the need for help, or will be hiring temps. Dan has the ability to train some of his staff and Peter can send him the list of interested folks and if additional volunteers are needed, he can reach out. Maury reiterated all the groups are getting on the same page and ensuring the testing does not come out too early and will prepare the timing for the testing rollout. Monica Boyd and Josh White will attend the meeting as they have done the bulk of the planning.

Perry asked about testing in Bethel and Rochester since they have GMC clinics in both locations. Dan advised there are no plans for a drive thru testing set up however folks from these communities can be accommodated if they wish to come to Randolph.

There are no CoVID patients at GMC. Protocols have been put in place with UVM and Dartmouth since the onset of the pandemic.

Last week Andrea suggested a list of businesses who would be interested in testing. As of date, there have been none to forward to Dan. This is something Dan will discuss at tomorrow's meeting and to set up a process of how to acquire the list of businesses and who will manage.

Vermont Department of Health has put out some requirements for businesses and has been put in the planning document by Maury and Marcus. There needs to be a health officer onsite, someone

overseeing the screening process which would include temperature checks, symptoms. Dan feels the businesses should be able to use the program the groups are putting in place.

Dan suggested Dr. White join one of the REDC's meetings. And would appreciate the help from Josh and REDC to get the word out to the area businesses.

5. Vermont Technical College

Perry has the Deferred Maintenance Book which consists of approximately \$3M deferred maintenance and approximately \$5 to \$7 M related to capital improvement projects and more information to be gathered.

WCAX indicated that the Legislature is considering a task force on a state level. Jay confirmed they are an education specialist group. More information is needed who the outside group is and who within the state and communities will be involved.

Peter advised they have a meeting with the Windsor County delegation and Pat will be joining the discussions.

6. New Business

Perry would like to know if GMC is going to have their summer concert series however Dan is not certain at this time and will reach out to Perry next week.

Perry wanted to share with the group. The rental companies are getting hit hard with the shutdowns. There are approximately ten rental companies within the state that provides various event equipment and services and they will not see 10% to 15% revenues based on last year's figures. The events group is trying to come up with ideas and social distancing events and concerts to keep afloat and recover from these restrictions will be felt for years to come. There is an inventory of concert stages and covers and the groups are willing to share proceeds from events. The concept is to have open area concerts with food trucks and is a viable solution. The events industry is going to need help and the PPP and EDIL programs will not hold them over to May 2021. There are two companies that are not going to make it and will have to file for bankruptcy/Chapter 11. Perry will send a copy of his letter to Jay and Peter. There is a task force under the ACCD Get Vermont Back to Work.

7. Old Business

New hotel plans have been tabled for a year. The Act 250 Permit appeal ends May 15th. Permit will be issued and is good for two years. Banks are supporting the project and may start excavating.

Adjourned: 6:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mary V. Richter, Chair