



# TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

## Economic Development Council Via Teleconference Minutes of May 14, 2020

**Members Present:** Mary Richter

**Guests:** Peter Reed, Dan Bennett, Maury Smith, Valerie Schoolcraft, Andrea Easton

**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) / RAMAN Fund for CoVID-19 Response  
Update tabled to next meeting

- Vermont Revolving Loan Fund  
Update tabled to next meeting
- Small Business Support

Josh reported restaurants in the state are looking for financial support from the State for funds in the amount of \$175M with a three-phase approach. Restaurants need to expand their square footage capacity to comply with social distancing. Hoping funding from the CARES Act will be provided.

Josh and Perry have had discussions with local restaurants and businesses to close Merchants Row to traffic to allow restaurants to expand outdoor seating for the summer and businesses to expand their businesses as well. Tents would be erected for 4 to 5 months. This would help the events industry who have been impacted with the shut down and cancellations. The funding would help with renting tables, chairs, etc.

Topic is to be discussed at the next Selectboard meeting.

### 4. Coronavirus Pandemic (CoVID-19)

Local Testing and Economic Recovery Work

Maury reported Tim Caulfield and Tom Ayres from the RAMAN Communication Team is handling the rollout of testing.

Dan reported there has been outreach to the Herald with multiple articles, social media, Gifford Facebook page, safety in the workplace posters, joint communication with businesses, Gifford has been approached by businesses and Maury has been reaching out as well.

Maury added he started reaching out to businesses as to who their safety officers will be, and making it known that Gifford is offering testing for them.

Dan stated testing protocol is going well and it looks promising to have nasal swabs which are less invasive than the nasal pharyngeal (NP) swab and hopes testing capabilities will improve.

Out-of-staters are being tested after seven days. Gifford will provide testing to anyone who is asymptomatic and has a referral from their doctors. Andrea mentioned Lake Champagne Campground is opening May 15 and Abel Mountain Campground will be opening. It has been suggested to distribute brochures for available testing at Gifford. Dan will reach out to Jay for discussing/advertising on his WCVR radio show on Saturdays.

There are also popup testing centers in White River Junction and Barre.

## **5. Vermont Technical College**

Peter provided an update the Windsor County Legislatures meeting held on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Pat delivered her message, and everyone was supportive. Peter was looking at VTC stats and it appears there are more students from Windsor County than Orange County who attend VTC.

Pat and her task force are targeting July 1<sup>st</sup> to come up with her plan. There appears to be support from the Legislature to come up with bridge funding however it is not clear if it can come from CARES. Some of the CARES money to reimburse students, room and board at State Colleges and UVM approximately \$5M each.

The State has brought in a consultant from Maine and looking for initial feedback in the next two to three weeks. No group has been formed from the Legislature yet.

## **6. New Business**

Andrea met with Haida about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to have a celebratory event over a few days during the 4<sup>th</sup>. May be pulled back from having a parade to property decorating. Haida has some ideas to have as a community with Randolph, Braintree, and Brookfield. There will be more discussions on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Maybe have social distancing events at Farr's Hill.

Adjourned: 5:35 PM  
Respectfully submitted,  
Mary V. Richter, Chair