

## **Healthy Roots Collaborative Advisory Committee Meeting**

**July 11, 2022 – 9:00am to 11:00 am**

**Northwest Regional Planning Commission 75 Fairfield St, St Albans City, VT 0547 St. Albans,  
VT**

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84586031027?pwd=ZzFvNEp1SUFaZU5TZEERnQ1hsVXpwdz09>

**Attendance:** Emily Alger, Lauren Weston, Nina Hansen, Cassie Fraser, Rachel Huff, Lynn Douglas, Jess Graff, Bethany Remmers, Tim Smith, Christine Porcaro, Peter Jenkins

#### **Goals:**

- Review and feedback on FY23 Budget
- Discussion of NRPC Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Statement

Times	Agenda Item	Action
9:00 to 9:20	<b>Org updates &amp; Intros</b>	

#### Notes:

Lauren Weston, NRCS/NRCD – They are working on a guide to resources and grants. “Harnessing the Rip-Sower” Event coming up. This will be trialed at Does Leap Farm next week. NRCS has hired an AmeriCorps member who is starting next week. NRCS is also starting a project at Lake Carmi.

Nina Hansen and Cassie Fraser (Director of Marketing), Abbey Group – has built a large warehouse in Sheldon, which will be a packing facility for fresh food. The Abbey has been doing a lot of packing for the VT Foodbank, specifically for their backpack program. Nina introduced Cassie who will be sharing the Advisory Committee role with Nina. Cassie is excited to be here. She was just working with Rachel at Shelburne Farms, during the FTS Institute.

Rachel Huff, FTS in Franklin County – community partner working on Farm to School, not on the HRC AC.

Lynn Douglas, NRPC committee – The NRPC Committee has been working on an equity plan with Abundant Sun (consulting firm).

Jess Graff, CVOEO – There is much going on at CVOEO and NWFF. Jess did not elaborate at this time, but would be happy to at a later date. Jess is a new AC member.

Bethany Remmers, NRPC – NRPC employee, not on the AC. NRPC is working on the Regional Plan. There will be more information and action items for committees regarding the Regional Plan this fall.

Tim Smith, FCIDC – purchased Perley Block property in Enosburg. Also working with two new buildings breaking ground in the St. Albans industrial park this fall.

EMily – Welcome to Cassie and Jess. Let's plan a time for more thorough conversation on what is happening at the Abbey Group and NWFF in the future.

Christine – Health Care CSA starting this week. Dairy innovation grant update

Peter – Migrant Household Foodbox program started last week. Collaboration with Bridges to Healthy, CVOEO, and Feeding Chittenden. Also, Peter has a kid on the way, coming in October. He is working with Christine on a plan for some leave, and will keep the AC updated.

9:20 to 10:00	<b>FY'23 Budget</b>	
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Notes: We should have answers to some of the outstanding funding requests within the next couple of months. EDA grant was extended until the end of FY23.

Everyone Eats, the end of 2022 will most likely be end of this program

Mergen's Foundation – this is a new foundation or us, we have applied for funding supporting gleaning and specifically with children – gleaning field trips

Tim and Nina request that HRC send them invoices for Abbey and FCIDC donations

#### Expenses

- AmeriCorps. It has been hard to find applicants. New application last week
- 10K for infrastructure to spend on cooler by Jan 1 2023

Nina asks if it's true that the finances look better than they have in the past. Christine – EDA is still a big part and taking that out makes things look less good.

The FY23 budget is almost finalized. There may be a few changes, but Catherine has seen and approved of the budget as it is now.

10:00 to 11:00	<b>NRPC Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Statement Discussion and Survey</b>	
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Notes: NRPC is working on a statement of DEI as part of their consulting with Abundant Sun. Committees are asked to discuss this statement, offer suggestions, and provide feedback through this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NRCPCEquitySurvey>

Adopting a DEI statement is part of updating the Regional Plan.

What is the role of committees in this work? Committees can add new ideas and language to the statement. Ideas can be offered at multiple points in the process.

Nina – what role does this statement play in condemning racism and other discrimination?

Emily – what do we do if these standards aren't met?

Rachel – should each committee create a program specific DEI statement?

Jess – Maybe not a separate statement, but strategic goals for each org/committee. Jess also recommends changing specific language in the statement – instead of “regardless” say NRPC “welcomes.” And instead of “disability” use “ability”

Emily – these wording changes are really transformative.

Jess – realizes that she isn't doing enough to address racism and she has justified this in her head on account of serving a much smaller population than Burlington. But that is not a good excuse. Sister orgs Burlington such as CVOEO and Feeding Chittenden are doing great work around bringing in diverse populations. FGI Community Action can learn from these efforts.

Peter – HRC's gleaning program serves food shelves and generally doesn't have direct contact with recipients. Is there a role for us in encouraging recipient sites to be more equitable?

Christine – HRC had conversations with Migrant Justice last year

Emily – HRC might want to have a conversation with the VT Land Trust. They are having these conversations around their role as a traditionally white led org. We should set up a meeting with them.

Jess – there was a recent article in Seven Days about VLT and the SUSU.

Calling on Tim and Cassie do you have anything to add? Cassie appreciates adding income to the statement that Christine mentioned at the introduction.

Jess – supply can play a role in this work. If HRC brings more food that is of interest to BIPOC communities this could help push CVOEO to reach out to these communities.

Nina – questions about this work regarding who we accept funding from or how we seek funding.

Christine and Peter shared the example of the Hannaford grant to VT Gleaning Collective.

Do other orgs have policies about accepting funding?

Emily – not about a funding policy, but SHLT does have an investment policy that aligns with their mission.

Lynn – example from Jump Program of a funder who wanted to hold a drinking/gambling event. That was a difficult conversation to have with the individual, but he came around to see the program's stance against that.

Christine – example of dairy farmer who might have difficulty navigating the grant process to repair old barns.

Christine – next step?

Emily – Make sure we make space in our agendas to include these goals as we discuss our programs. Having this conversation and shared understanding is the most important piece.

What is the status of our strategic planning process?

Emily – Christine and Emily want to start a SP process. Does the AC think that is a good idea? Yes. How about hiring a consultant to facilitate the process? Yes.

Next meeting in person in Sept. Christine will send out a doodle poll for time.

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