

**Healthy Roots Collaborative Advisory Committee Meeting**

**January 27, 2022 - 9:00am to 11:00 am**

**Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation, Conf. RM (4<sup>th</sup> FLR), 2 North Main St., St. Albans, VT**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89135241035?pwd=MUJCeWx0OGVpRTFDK0w1ZXp1QTVPUT09>

Attendance: Emily Alger, Lynn Douglas, Tim Smith, Lauren Weston, Nina Hansen, Rachel Huff, Peter Jenkins, Christine Porcaro

**Goals:**

- Work Plan Updates
- Staff Capacity/AmeriCorps Member update
- Isle La Motte School update (REDI Grant)

Times	Agenda Item	Action
9:00 to 9:20	<b>Org updates</b>	
<p>Notes:</p> <p><b>SHLT:</b> Emily reported that South Hero Land Trust is ramping up work for Farm to School project at Folsom. They are in the weeds of research, learning, and matching various lesson plans to core curriculum standards. They found amazing resources that they are going to pull in around indigenous cultures and storytelling of food ways. Peter wrapped up the USDA Farm to School Report. Emily shared that we will have the last of the money in-hand shortly and that will be the end of the grant. Emily also reported on Northwest Vermont Grown. SHLT and HRC have outreach going to farmers in the region to sign-up and update their information on the website.</p> <p>Lauren inquired about Northwest Vermont Grown and also shared that FC NRCD would be interested in sponsoring the site.</p> <p><b>FCIDC-</b> Tim reported that as of last week they hired Paul Remillard. Paul was the Director of the Farm Service Agency for USDA and was there for 30 years. He brings a strong Ag Finance background to FCIDC. He will be a great contact/connection for traditional farms in the region.</p> <p>Emily asked where they are at with their strategic planning. Tim shared that they have had all of their panel discussions and that they will meet with outside consultants the following week.</p> <p><b>FC NRCD-</b> Lauren reported that at the district they are writing 10 proposals to do a lot of work/capacity building over the next couple of years. Some of those proposals include: -Soil Health proposal to work with UVM Extension to train up NRCD staff across the state to help farmers manage their soil health -AgCWIP – new round of proposals open can include funds to train staff on economic viability and business planning; we are planning to get trained to help our dairy farmers in this way in addition to clean water projects</p>		

- Ecoregional Plant Partnership – trying to bring partners together to increase the volume and supply of native plant material in the Northeast
- Connecting with Towns via Conservation Commissions or similar groups in each town to better understand grassroots and community need for Conservation District programming

Lynn asked what the conservation commissions do and what would you want to partner with them on. Lauren shared that they are volunteer groups who want to do good in their community. As an example, she shared that Enosburg is trying to plan a stream walk for the purposes of seeing if land owners will plant more trees along streams. A lot of the initial work is trying to understand where the energy is in Franklin County. Lynn asked if FC NRCD has talked with the Cold Hollow to Canada people. Lauren responded that they are 100% on their radar and that there could also be some potential funding opportunities there. Tim shared that Georgia has a well-established Conservation Commission.

**NRPC-** Lynn reported that the board had met the night before and that one of the big focuses over the next year is JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion). The planning commission board will have different speakers that are highlighted each month. This past meeting had someone from the Agency of Transportation and they shared how they are approaching each project in a more inclusive way. Lynn also said she was also able share the 2021 HRC Annual Report. Emily echoed the importance of JEDI work and that SHLT is also taking on that work as well.

**Rachel:** Rachel shared that she worked with Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders the day before and right now she is doing a lot of after school programs and encouraging schools to apply to different grants. Rachel reported she was also working with Franklin Northeast on the Vision Grant. Emily mentioned the Agency of Ag grant for CSAs for Childcare Providers.

9:20 to 10:15	<b>Work Plan Updates/Staff Capacity/AmeriCorps Vista Update</b>	<b>Peter: Email to connect himself, Emily, and Lynn to discuss individuals' campaign.</b>  <b>Christine: Send in LOI for AmeriCorps Vista member and complete application for late February.</b>
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**Notes:**  
Christine share revisions to the workplan highlighting the roles that both she and Peter would be picking up. The plan also highlighted potential roles an AmeriCorps VISTA could play as a part of the Healthy Roots team. Emily asked if there were any questions and input on the changes made to the Work Plan. Lauren said she was interested to hear that HRC is interested in bringing on an AmeriCorps member. She shared that FC NRCD is actually working towards not having an AmeriCorps member because of the one-year turnover and they are currently trying to build more long-term capacity. Emily commented that one of the great things about having NRPC as the HRC backbone is that they have a tremendous amount of experience with having AmeriCorps members as a part of their staff. Lynn added that she has worked with AmeriCorps members through the Planning Commission board and they have been a big help around technology and has seen them produce great work. Rachel shared that she is happy to contribute/collaborate/support in term of Farm to School with an AmeriCorps member. Emily wanted to highlight that an AmeriCorps member would be complimentary to Farm to School and not a replacement. Peter shared that gleaning would be a great entry point to Healthy Roots, especially with an August start date. Nina said that an AmeriCorps member could help to re-

energize Farm to School as it has been a lower priority in schools with COVID. She added that they are not serving students in the cafeteria so we are losing this connection with students.

Lauren was curious about taking on additional roles and how staff was feeling about it. Peter responded that the physicality of the gleaning position can take its toll. He loves the work but it would be great to be able to take at least one day/week off of gleaning to free him up to do some higher lever work.

Lynn added that she would be happy to meet with Peter around the individuals fundraising campaign. Emily asked Peter to write an email to the three of them to set up a meeting.

10:15 to 11:00	<b>Isle La Motte Kitchen Update (REDI GRANT)</b>	<b>Christine: Apply for REDI Grant for Isle La Motte Kitchen (March)</b>
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**Notes:**

Christine reported the opportunity to apply for a REDI grant to support grant writing/business planning for the Isle La Motte Community Kitchen. The REDI grant would pair the project with a technical assistance provider to apply for larger grants (primarily but not limited to federal funding). Christine shared that the project would need a manager/lead assigned to it. Christine spoke with Catherine, who gave her support for the project and HRC's role along with it. To take this next step, Christine asked if there is HRC advisory committee support for the project and for HRC to take the lead (alongside SHLT). Emily asked for comments and concerns and also for a motion from the committee to show support on this project. Tim added that he feels this project will build strong networks and relationships for future programs/projects.

Tim makes the motion  
Lauren seconds.  
All in favor.  
Motion passes.

Tim asked if there were going to be hard copies printed of the 2021 HRC Annual Report. Christine is going to print 30-40 copies at the NRPC office if possible. Nina also shared that they would have capacity to print at the Abbey Group.

Tim also asked for clarification on the timeline on the Farm to School Program. Emily responded that HRC does not have any more current funding but are going to meet to figure out next steps. Tim shared that the STEM Challenge Initiative could be an opportunity for some funding for Farm to School. Nina added the BFA St. Albans is trying to put together a Farm to School Committee. Emily shared that she, Rachel, Peter, and Guy will meet as a committee to discuss some ideas and next step that they will bring back to the HRC Advisory Committee in March.

Next meeting Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

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