

**Healthy Roots Collaborative Advisory Committee Meeting
September 16, 2020 – 1pm to 3pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85122444612?pwd=K1ZPYnk1U2lPU3ZXQndIRmJ3dStLdz09>

Meeting ID: 851 2244 4612
Passcode: 685190

Attendance:

Goals:

- **Identify note taker/secretary**
- **Introduce Christine Porcaro to the Committee**
- **Get feedback on Sept 2020 to Jan 2021 workplan and roles**
- **Provide overview of FTS for future strategic planning**

Times	Agenda Item	Action
1:00-1:20	Welcome & Roles	
Notes:		
1:20 – 1:40	Meet Christine	
Notes:		
1:40 to 2:15	Review HRC draft work-plan	<p>Emily: going to put it on her calendar to check in to make sure the lack of leads in the Admin Section is not causing a problem as time goes on.</p> <p>Add that HRC will provide FCIDC with outreach & support for the funding they received for technical assistance for businesses in Franklin & Grand Isle Counties to the Farm & Food Business Support section.</p> <p>Tim: Share materials about that initiative with Christine.</p> <p>Emily, Koi, Peter, & Christine: With the official hiring of Kathy Lavoie as Special Projects Coordinator with NRPC, edits need to be made to the Farm & Food Business Apprenticeship Program Development & Infrastructure Development</p>

		<p>Koi, Peter, Christine: Will meet on Thursday to discuss Everyone Eats and work out further logistics on what HRC will be doing and changes can be sent for the workplan.</p> <p>EVERYONE: If there is ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK on WORKPLAN send them to Emily and she will send them out to the group. Have them in within the next week or so!</p>
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2:15 – 3:00	Farm to School Overview	
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<p>Notes: Notes:</p> <p>Role as note taker/secretary- Koi will continue to create the agenda and will consult with Emily before the meeting to review it. It will be sent out in advance with other documents that will be discussed at meetings.</p> <p>Per NRPC practice, HRC staff needs to take notes. Christine will be the note taker during the meetings.</p> <p>Starting at this meeting and moving forward, each staff person is going to report out on the programs that they are working on. This aims to reduce the weight put on Koi’s shoulders and also allows each coordinator to share what they are working on and goals for the future of various programs.</p> <p>CHRISTINE INTRODUCTION:</p> <p>Robert Ostermeyer: CAP agency (1 of 11 statewide) acts of a conduit for state and federal funds to support low-income families (housed under CVOEO). Work includes addressing food insecurity, fuel assistance, housing, tax preparation, Medicare & Medicaid enrollment.</p> <p>Denise Smith: Currently, the Blueprint manager for the ACH trough Northwestern Medical Center. Worked with RISE VT at Northwestern Medical Center. Helped to create Healthy Roots. Supervisor for HRC for 3 years.</p> <p>WORK PLAN FEEDBACK</p> <p>The plan is to collect feedback today and answer any questions. The staff will finalize the workplan over the next couple weeks and then will share the final product to the group.</p> <p>Understand this document to be a LIVING DOCUMENT and will change as needed throughout time.</p>		
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ADMIN FEEDBACK:

Brad Docheff: Topics without a distinct lead, how do those move forward and make sure they actually get done?

Solution: Make sure that this gets put in everyone's calendar (ACTION ITEM). A lot of the Admin stuff is on the committee and NRPCs radar so it should not fall through the cracks. Continue to monitor and make sure this is not/does not become an issue.

FARM & FOOD APPRENTICE PROGRAM FEEDBACK

NRPC has hired Kathy Lavoie (as of 09/16/2020) as a Special Projects Coordinator. She comes with experience in setting up and running Apprenticeship programs. With this expertise, HRC will create edits to this section.

By the end of December 2020, HRC staff needs to decide whether the proposed launch of Spring 2021 is realistic for this program.

FARM & FOOD BUSINESS SUPPORT FEEDBACK

Tim Smith: FCIDC has received funding to give to businesses for technical assistance that have been affected by COVID-19. FCIDC is looking for help with outreach to businesses and they will be able to pay the cost of that support (whether that support is in legal, marketing, website, etc). The key is to get the word out.

-This is for both Franklin & Grand Isle Counties.

-Money needs to be spent before **December 4th**.

-FDIDC will also have funding to support workshops that can be run for farm and food businesses. Monday could help offset the costs of those workshops and speakers. *Still waiting on specifics of that funding.

HRC is continuing to discuss how those workshops will be held. Trying to see if there will be a hybrid of both virtual and in-person.

HRC wants to focus on being able to continue to build the network and connections between farm/food businesses. Without the ability to do the traditional mixers during this time of year, perhaps creating a virtual farm/food business forum could help continue that network and community building.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FEEDBACK

VHCB came back with funding to help with creating a plan to create a cooler space but was unable to get funding for creating a business plan at the larger level of aggregation and long-term use.

They are interested in the project but are really stretching their funding and are helping in the best capacity that they can. VHCB is going to Food Funders with our story.

We may hold off on this business planning depending on seeing what sort of funding we can get for it.

Koi and Christine met with Jim Markle in St. Albans and we found out that there is a cold storage facility being built right outside of St. Albans. So this continues to be an evolving story on what the next steps should be on that project.

FARM TO SCHOOL FEEDBACK

Tim Smith: What are some the biggest issues facing Farm to School right now?

Rachel Huff: There is just no time. Schools are dealing with just teaching and learning in this new landscape. So, bandwidth right now is the biggest issue.

FOOD ACCESS/GLEANING PROGRAM FEEDBACK

Exact numbers for tonnage of food is currently not known (a lot of numbers are still on paper) but Peter is working on putting that together.

Koi anticipates that we will go over the 40,000 #s which would include the Farmers to Families input.

Spring had a lot of root crops, lighter gleaning in the summer but we had a huge increase in the Farmers to Families input.

FUNDRAISING FEEDBACK

Koi is taking the lead on this and focused much more on those 1 on 1 relationships for fundraising and not our regular grant application outreach.

EVERYONE EATS FEEDBACK

- HRC is applying to help facilitate the program in Franklin & Grand Isle Counties.
- Statewide program with funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
- Needs to be spent before December 18th.
- Will provide \$10 meals through vouchers at restaurants (run through Localvore).
- Shift Meals will be doing prepared meals and will distribute those. We are still discussing about how HRC will be involved with distribution but are seeing if Peter will be managing this within Grand Isle and Franklin Counties.
- HRC is looking to be the liaison for this program by approaching restaurants to participate, encourage local purchasing (10% of products need to be locally sourced), help make voucher access equitable, and prepared meal distribution.
- 7 local restaurants are interested in participating
- Christine is going to the Statewide meeting tomorrow to learn more about the program
- Koi and Christine are meeting with Shift Meals this afternoon at 3pm
- We can provide feedback based on the new information that we receive.

There is a lot of work that needs to get done very quickly and our focus needs to be on making voucher accessible and making sure we are providing food that is actually what our community wants to eat.

Careful to spend time where we can add EQUITY!

Peter has been inquiring on deliveries about prepared meals to gauge interest. Abenaki Tribal Council was very interested (4 or 5 boxes). Richford was on board (not a lot of freezer space), Sheldon and Fairfield are on board. There is a need out there...not storing at Sheldon would be the easiest. Health Hero is an option. Peter is still waiting to hear back from Joan & Bob.

Robert has fully functioning chest freezers, if anyone is looking for them.

FARM TO SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Koi and Rachel share the goals and outcomes of the program and give space for the committee to provide feedback!

Initial overview to start the conversation and to see how it evolves long-term. This is the most vulnerable program (contracted position/not under NRPC/funded through South Hero Land Trust)

What is our focus and how should we structure this program moving forward?

WHAT IS FARM TO SCHOOL IN VT?

FTS is there to help students make informed food choices, improve and recognize the role of local farms play in communities.

FTS programs are a vital tool we can use to **promote agricultural literacy**.

Agricultural literacy is a key part of equity (access to food and health). Everyone has the right to be literate

VT has led the way in FTS. We as a state created the 3 Cs (Cafeterias, Classrooms, Communities)

Very vibrant across the state! A very integrated network with a lot of organizations taking part. HRC plays this role locally in Franklin & Grand Isle counties

HOW DOES HRC IMPLEMENT FTS?

SHLT provides fiscal oversight for our FTS grants and corporate sponsorship.

Rachel Huff LLC was created in 2019, SHLT contracts with Rachel to take conduct 70% of the work.

HRC, Rachel, SHLT make up FTS Team

Funding is primarily through the state.

Rachel has been able to work with the fluctuating budget from year to year!

PRE-COVID GOALS

Hold 2-3 curriculum workshops

- provide training and local food purchasing support
- Coach 3 schools from 3 school districts through VT FEED FTS Institute
- Conduct farmer visits to school & gleaning field trips
- Provide cooking, taste test and garden activities
- Begin to engage HS students

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Connected 3 schools to 3 growers
- Provided garden support to 3 schools
- Taste tests and cooking classes reached 300 kids & 10 educators in 2 school districts
- Hosted 10 farm field trips reaching 185 kids, 12 educators, 8 farm
- Coaching 6 schools
- Held 2 virtual curriculum trainings with Shelburne Farms reaching 26 educators.
- Brought 18 FTS enthusiasts together at our fall gathering
- Conducted Smarter Lunchroom Assessments with Hunger Free Vt at 2 schools
- Sent 3,000 seed packets home with school meals and shared educational videos

PIVOT PLAN

- Go Virtual! Create virtual content for classrooms to maintain connections to farms, farmers and their own school kitchens.
- Contribute to and connect folks to monthly themes and calendars of FTS activities: SHLT, Harvest of the Month, Rise VT Themes of the month.
- Facilitate virtual communities of practice for educators and isolated independent school nutrition staff. Develop virtual educator trainings in collaboration with VT FTS Network.
- Provide resources: Connect school nutrition staff to necessary resources.
- Connect the community to monthly calendars of activities.
- Provide resources to support outdoor education.
- Connect educators and school nutrition staff to virtual workshops and PD opportunities.
- Maintain Relationships and Energy!**
Support and maintain existing local purchasing relationships. Celebrate school nutrition programs, Support FTS team, provide on the ground help for gardens and gleaning

CURRENT FUNDING

- NOFA USDA grant
- VAAFM Coaching grant (Vermont Agency of Ag)
- VAAFM USDA grant-extension
- AOE Curriculum training grant
- Annual Abbey group contribution
- EDA grant
- EDA STEM Apprenticeship Program
- Collaboration with Healthy Roots, CCV, Cold Hollow and NWCTC
- Pilot year serves 6 students
- Students get position at farm or food business for 2 years
- Dual enrollment credit
- Spring 2021? Still deciding

Question:

Denise Smith: Are teachers doing more with students outside? Are you getting questions on what to do with them outside? Have we started thinking now about what we can do in the spring?

A lot of teachers are really excited about being outside but not yet about place-based stuff...a huge uptick in creating outdoor spaces. There is genuine interest in creating outdoor spaces and interacting with it.

Gleaning field trips are a unique opportunity where you are in a farm field and are feeding people who are hungry and it may be someone you know. These trips allow students to see the beautiful food that is being gleaned and it is a powerful and kind space for kids that may be experiencing hunger.

The work that gets done at that early age, really connecting kids to produce/food. Educating them on nutrition and understanding food as medicine is so important. FTS allows them to learn about food in school and then come home and be able to discuss that they have learned as it relates to nutrition and food security.

Cooking skills and taking care to prepare meals does not happen enough as a society and is another important piece of the puzzle.

Rachel notes that the local procurement of food for schools has been lagging, as she has focused much more heavily on education but it is something that HRC can improve upon.

Denise mentioned that John Newhart is going to VT food producers and getting products from them and then doing a cooking show with those products. This past weekend they filmed at Finn & Roots. They went to Bristol on Friday and worked with Farmhouse Chocolate. This is a very cool thing that is happening...just his friends in his kitchen. They are going to Boston Post on Monday. Think about other producers for future episodes...and perhaps how HRC can get involved!

Handouts –

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