

**Healthy Roots Collaborative Advisory Committee Meeting
December 10, 2020 – 1pm to 3pm**

Attendance: Emily Alger, Brad Docheff, Nina Hansen, Christine Porcaro (left at 2pm), Rachel Huff, Peter Jenkins (arrived at 2pm)

Not in attendance: Tim Smith, Robert Ostermeyer, Denise Smith, Bethany Remmers

Goals:

- Finalize Infrastructure Planning
- Decide on online purchasing direction
- Inform Committee on IGT & Apprenticeship status

Times	Agenda Item	Action
1:00-1:30	Org updates	Koi will email Ben about available storage product for Nina
<p>Notes: The Abbey Group is following summer meal patterns and are therefore able to serve meals on non-school days. They are able to provide a combination of whole and prepared foods.</p> <p>The Town of Fairfax partnered with the Red Cross on a food drive for the local food shelf and it was a great success.</p> <p>Farm to school teams that attended the summer institute. As well as those that received VT Agency of Agriculture grants are moving forward. South Hero Land Trust and Rachel are working on virtual farm tours in both counties. VT Agency of Agriculture grant holders are realizing that they don't have enough time to spend money on PD, as they had planned, so Rachel is making suggestions about curriculum materials that they could buy. The Agency of Education funded farm to school modules will launch in January. There are 5 modules and one will be launched each month.</p> <p>South Hero Land Trust has created a holiday guide to market farmers and food producers as much as they can and share with eaters how to celebrate local.</p>		
1:30 – 2:00	Review Infrastructure Planning	Koi will develop focus group plan and list of attendees and will review with staff
<p>Notes: Koi reviewed the infrastructure planning process with the committee and further defined Sam Smith's role in supporting the plan development. The committee focused on the process for focus groups in January. There was also a question of available funding through VT Foodbank that has funded infrastructure in other communities. Koi informed the committee that HRC did receive \$5,000 from the Foodbank because of our critical role in moving food but would explore if there are more options here. Likely, this funding is tied to CARES and is no longer available at the end of the year.</p> <p>We also talked a bit about Farmers to Families and if HRC will take part in the Foodbank's January and February version of the program. The Abbey did apply and will reach out if they are</p>		

awarded and see a role for HRC. We will see a drop of food resources once January hits and that is concerning.		
2:00 to 2:30	Discuss online purchasing history and decide on future direction	Push this to a later date
Notes: Our meeting coincided with the Hunger Council meeting and Christine had to jump off to give them an Everyone Eats update, so we did not discuss this.		
2:30- 2:45	IGT & Apprenticeship staff updates	Emily will reach out to committee to find new time for meetings
<p>Notes: Christine shared the In Good Taste Eaters Guide and reviewed the plan for digital distribution. Emily pointed out that we should get those that aren't listed in the Northwest VT Grown but are in the IGT guide up on the Northwest VT Grown site. Christine was ready to do that and had identified through the In Good Taste form who was not on the Northwest VT Grown site.</p> <p>We added an Everyone Eats update to the agenda: Everyone Eats meals have increased to 1,000 a week in FGI. We have been serving the staff at St. Albans Health & Rehab that have been impacted by an outbreak in that facility along with our traditional charitable food outlets. Hero's Welcome is now preparing fresh meals for Islands in the Sun and potentially St. Amadeus. The program is being impacted by a \$400,000 shortfall as a result of the 2 week extension to the end of December. The EE program will be asking the state legislature for a reallocation of funds to cover the shortfall and is asking others to contact their representatives.</p> <p>Koi, Christine & Kathy Lavoie held a Farm & Food Apprenticeship meeting with a broad group of folks from schools, Department of Labor, VocRehab, CCV and UVM. It went really well and everyone was very enthusiastic and energized by the work. Now that we have a better understanding of an rigor of an apprenticeship program – this might be the wrong direction for the program. Diversified Ag and Food systems are very broad and a very prescriptive apprenticeship program would not allow for the customizable nature that HRC is hoping to provide students. The planning group will review notes and determine next steps in the coming week. We will keep the advisory committee in the loop as this work progresses. We were supposed to make a decision in December whether or not we would work on a spring launch deadline but we don't have enough information to make that decision. Koi will continue to engage partners so that we can make that decision in a timely manner.</p> <p>The meeting ended early and we discussed if Thursday still worked since we had limited turn out and staff that needed to leave for a competing Hunger Council meeting. Emily said she will send out a meeting date request to the committee to see if another time will work better.</p>		

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