



Arlington Economic Development Recovery Task Force Minutes

Date: Tuesday October 13, 2020

Time: 2:00-3:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/96211802074>

Meeting ID: 962 1180 2074

Passcode: 776846

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Present: Jennifer Raitt, Dept. of Planning and Community Development; Ali Carter, Dept. of Planning and Community Development; Kylee Sullivan, Department of Health and Human Services; Rachel Zsembery, Arlington Redevelopment Board; Leland Stein, Regent Theater; Janet O’Riordan, Old Schwamb Mill; Erik Kondo, Broadway Athletics; Bob Bowes, Gibson Sotheby’s International Real Estate; Cristin Bagnall, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture

Guest: Len Diggins

Minutes

1. Public Health Update: 375 confirmed cases, 52 probable cases, and 50 deaths.
 - a. Phase 3, Step 2: as a low-risk community according to state guidelines, Arlington is allowed to start Step 2 of Phase 3, which began on Monday October 5th. Since then there has been a slight uptick in cases on the local level.
 - b. Someone asked if AFC Urgent Care in Arlington Heights was still testing and how long it took to get a response from them. Kylee believed that they were still testing but wasn’t sure of the timeframe for test results to come in. She recommended going to one of the state’s Stop the Spread sites if testing was necessary, as the timeframe to receive results from them was fairly short and testing at these locations is free.
2. Upcoming Virtual Town Forum: Jenny provided an overview of an upcoming Virtual Town Forum that would feature community updates from many town departments and encouraged everyone to attend and spread the word.

3. Business Survey update: Ali shared that the Chamber was going to release the Anonymous Business Survey next week and will share a summary of the survey's findings at an upcoming meeting.
4. Additional CDBG funds: Jenny outlined that the Town has received additional CARES Act funds to give out through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The plan was to request that \$200,000 go toward grants for business assistance.
5. Technical assistance: Ali explained that there was potential for using part of the CDBG funds for technical assistance. Technical assistance is essentially services rendered by a professional hired as a consultant for specific professional development needs identified by the business community. Technical Assistance can range widely based on need. Ali asked Task Force members if they would be interested in some of the funding from the CDBG program to be dedicated to technical assistance in addition to grants. Many Task Force members expressed support of setting aside some funding for technical assistance to help a broader swath of the business community rather than just giving all of the funding away to a few dozen grantees. Ali then asked what type of technical assistance business owners might want to receive. Answers including marketing, social media marketing, e-commerce support, accounting and bookkeeping assistance, and merchandising assistance. Ali noted these suggestions and said she would also convene the working groups to put the same question to them as well as the business district groups.

Next meeting: Tuesday November 24, 2020 at 2 p.m.