

RRA QUARTERLY REPORT

October 1 – December 31, 2022

Important Dates

Strategic Planning Consultant RFP

Proposals Due

3 pm

January 13, 2023

Open House

Autism, Advocacy & Intervention LLC

February 4, 2023

VCDP Grant Cycle

Applications Due

April 11, 2023

Public Hearing

April 3, 2023

RRA Contract Negotiations

FY25-FY29

May 2023

Set SBD Tax Rate

June 2023

Renew Designated Downtown

June 2023



Ajay Shah



Chris Ettori



Hillary Ward

Welcome New RRA Board Members!

The Mayor nominated Ajay Shah for a seat on the RRA Board in July and on Aug. 1 the Aldermen approved the appointment. Christopher Ettori and Hillary Ward were nominated in November and approved by the Aldermen on December 5.

On November 29, the RRA Board attended a virtual training on Open Meeting Law presented by VLCT. The training resulted in new processes being implemented.

The Board is currently working with staff to create a Strategic Plan and re-evaluate the position of Executive Director. On December 28 an RFP for a Strategic Planning Consultant was posted in the Herald and online, the response deadline is January 13, 2023. The RRA hopes to complete the strategic planning in early March, at which time they will begin the hiring process. Currently the Board is also updating the employee manual with help from Judy Frazier.

Grant News

The City, through the efforts of the RRA, was awarded a VCDP Implementation Grant on November 16 for \$650,900 for the



renovation of 120 Maple Street. The RRA will be working with Hale Resources of Bennington to rehabilitate this vacant/blighted property into 3 units of affordable housing and 2 market-rate units.

The RRA worked with Andrew Strniste to submit a Bylaws Modernization application on Nov. 1. If awarded these funds will be



LT's Little Dog Camp

used to re-hire Brandy Saxton to assist the Planning Commission in finalizing the City's Zoning Bylaws Rewrite. Award announcements are expected in January, 2023.

The Rutland County Parent Child Center held its pre-construction conference in December with a Notice to Proceed executed on Dec. 19.

Several grants closed in the quarter including Lincoln Place, Center Street Scoping Study and the Downtown Pedestrian Wayfinding Signage. All of these grants received successful project completion letters from the respective grantors.

Barbara attended a VCDP Grants Management Symposium on Dec. 8. She will be utilizing the tools learned in upcoming grant applications.

Grand List and Job Development

The RRA assisted three applicants through the BIAP process. The Aldermen approved \$5,000 grants to LT's Little Dog Camp and Giuseppe's Italian Market; and a \$10,000 loan to Autism, Advocacy and Intervention LLC.

Barbara is working with three new BIAP applicants: Line Drive Baseball and Softball Academy LLC, Euphoric Hair Salon and Chef Ian Vair. The hope is to help facilitate these applications through the process for approval in the next quarter.

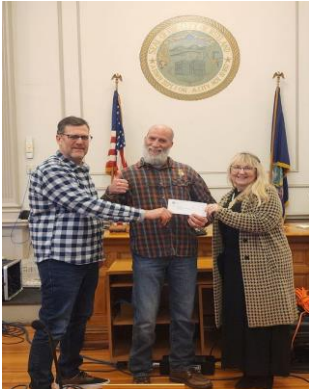
Having satisfied the conditions of the \$10,000 BIAP Forgivable Loan to Taso on Center, the 2019 loan was forgiven by the Aldermen on November 21. Despite COVID challenges the restaurant was able to expand adding additional seating for 40 people and staffing is currently back to pre-COVID levels with hiring on-going.

Barbara is working with the City Treasurer to create a system to follow up with BIAP grantees and borrowers in order to provide whatever additional services are available and ensure the success of each new business.

TIF – Barbara and Ed have stayed committed to the TIF working group. The Aldermen recently approved additional funding for the contract with White & Burke. There is a role for the RRA to play going forward.

Housing Initiatives and Blighted Properties

The RRA is an active participant in the Rutland County Housing Ad Hoc Committee. The purpose of the committee is to create market rate housing in the City through collaboration with developers, CEDRR, RRPC, low/moderate income housing agencies and realtors. At the end of November, NWWVT presented a Rutland Market Rate Rental Revitalization Revolving Loan Fund Pilot Program to the C&ED Committee. The program was created with \$400,000 allocated by the City. Next steps for the RRA will be to help find ways to replenish and add to the initial funding, as well as, participate in vetting applications to provide the Zoning Administrator a degree of separation.



Autism, Advocacy & Intervention LLC



Giuseppe's Italian Market



Moving Forward

Facebook and Website

Barbara continues to work on updating the RRA website www.rutlandvtbusiness.com, as well as, the RRA Facebook page.

Next Steps

- Meet with Elisabeth Kulas to discuss VCDP Planning Grant for VFFC
- Assist two applicants interested in applying for VCDP Implementation Grants: HTRC and Summit Properties
- Follow up with DPW re: potential VTrans funding for Center Street
- Work with RRPC on Rutland Station Area Improvements
- Review/Market the tax stabiliation policies and see how these can be used to assist in the Casella re-development of the CSJ campus
- Update/Market the Downtown Rutland SBD RLF
- Determine strategy for Business Competition proposal
- Create a Business Concierge Program
- Downtown Transportation Grant – due Jan. 31, 2023