

RRA QUARTERLY REPORT

January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023

Important Dates

Hospital Heights

Public Hearing

April 3, 2023

VCDP Application Due

April 11, 2023

RRA Mixer

Introduction to Aldermen

5:30 -7:30 pm

April 6, 2023

CEDRR Business Show

Rutland Recreation Community Center

4 – 7 pm

April 11, 2023

RRA Contract Negotiations

FY25-FY29

May 2023

Set SBD Tax Rate

June 2023

Renew Designated Downtown

June 2023



Welcome New Mayor and Aldermen Members!

On March 7, Rutland City voters elected Mike Doenges as Mayor and Alex Adams, Kiana McClure, John McCann and Cheryl Hooker as Aldermen. Re-elected Aldermen were Joe Barbagallo, Carrie Savage, Bill Gillam and Larry Cupoli. The RRA Board and staff look forward to working with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen into the future.

The RRA kicked off its Strategic Planning on February 7 after hiring Melissa Levy of Community Roots LLC as the consultant. Melissa has been interviewing partners in the community about their experience with the RRA. On March 17 Melissa led a SWOT analysis with the RRA Board, Mayor, Alderman Talbott and staff, the exercise resulted in several common themes. Next steps will include an evaluation of the SWOT discussion and interviews, and to draft external and internal goals for the RRA. Melissa said this could be done in conjunction with the Executive Director Search. The RRA Board put together a committee for the search with that work ongoing.



Rutland County Parent Child Center Groundbreaking March 29, 2023

Grant News



Taco Fresco



Speakeasy Café Expansion



Euphoric Hair Experience LLC



DownValley Bikes

The Rutland County Parent Child Center held its groundbreaking event on March 29. The City, through the efforts of the RRA, was awarded a VCDP Implementation Grant in 2016 for this project. The RCPCC has overcome numerous setbacks over the past 7 years to create the 2Gen Whole Family Education Center at One PCC Place, formerly 14 Chaplin Avenue. Mary Feldman, Executive Director hopes to be hosting the ribbon cutting this summer. Phil Aldermen was also recognized at the groundbreaking for his family's donation of \$115,000 to the project.

The City received the following grant awards during the quarter: the Bylaws Modernization grant to re-hire Brandy Saxton to assist in finalizing the City's Zoning Bylaws Rewrite; and a Placemaking Grant to create a guide to implement projects, policies and programs in Downtown. Both Barbara and Ed are serving on an advisory committee.

An open house was held March 9 from noon to 3 pm for the Reimagine Depot Park Steering Committee. The final designs for the park were chosen. Barbara completed the historic preservation 106 Review and facilitated the resolution from the Aldermen to give Come Alive Outside site control of Depot Park for the duration of the amenity installation. The Crowdfunding campaign begins in April.

The RRA assisted in applying for the Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Prize. The \$250,000 prize awards communities that foster health and wellbeing for all by addressing systemic inequities. If awarded Rutland would be the first City to be recognized in Vermont.

Grand List and Job Development

The RRA assisted four applicants through the BIAP process and the Aldermen approved the following grants/loans:

- \$5,000 grant to DownValley Bikes
- \$10,000 loan Speakeasy Cafe for expansion
- \$10,000 loan Taco Fresco
- \$10,000 loan Euphoric Hair Experience LLC

Barbara is working with three new BIAP applicants: Angie King who wants to open a yoga studio, Marie Whalen who is interested in opening a childcare center and Brooke Lipman, the owner of Center Street Alley, who is looking to open a business at 42 Center Street.



BIAP Awards	Businesses Created	Jobs Created
\$10,000	Speakeasy Café Expansion	4
\$10,000	Euphoric Hair Experience LLC	10
\$5,000	DownValley Bikes	2
\$10,000	Taco Fresco	6
\$10,000	Autism Awareness & Intervention	4-10
\$5,000	Giuseppe's Italian Market	4
\$5,000	LT's Little Dog Camp	2
\$55,000	7	30-40



Mac Equipment & Steel Co. closes after 70 years

Barbara continues to work on modernizing the BIAP and SBD RLF online applications. A working committee of Mary Markowski, Israel Mac, Brian Budrow and Barbara met on March 24 to re-evaluate the Special Benefits District Revolving Loan policy. Changes were made and the new policy and application will go live in April. Currently there are two potential applicants waiting to apply.

Barbara provided the TIF working group with a potential schedule for the required public meetings to create the district. Discussion continues on establishing a list of projects that will benefit from the TIF including the 10 Cleveland Avenue property and the housing project East Creek Commons on Columbian Avenue.

Housing Initiatives and Blighted Properties

The Rutland County Housing Ad Hoc Committee met on March 24 and guest speakers State Treasurer Mike Pieciak and Deputy State Treasurer Gavin Boyles discussed the 10% for Vermont Program. The program allows the State to invest up to 10% from a \$85m fund for economic development and job creation projects. There is a focus on housing. RRA Chair Edward Clark has asked a member of the RRA Board to volunteer to serve on a Housing Trust Fund Board being created to apply for the funding.

Moving Forward

Next Steps

- April 9 - Attend Davis Bacon 101 Webinar
- April 11 - Apply for VCDP implementation grant for Hospital Heights Rehabilitation.
- April 11 – Exhibit at CEDRR Business Show
- April 13 - EECBG program webinar
- April 18 - Intro to MERP – Grants for Efficient Municipal Buildings
- April – June - Mmeet with Elisabeth Kulas and Lyle Jepson to discuss VCDP Planning Grant for 10 Cleveland Avenue.
- April – June - Provide grant administration for the Rutland Station Area Improvements project
- April – June - Prepare videos to explain the process for BIAP grants/loans, SBD RLF, tax stabiliation policies and Maples RLF
- April – June - Work with CEDRR and Hub CoWorks on strategy for Business Competition proposal
- May 4 – EECBG program webinar
- May 22 - VT Downtown Board – Neiborhood Development Area NDA application presentation
- May – June - Prepare Downtown Designation Renewal
- June - Apply for Municipal Planning Grant for Rutland City Municipal Plan Revision