

**DATE:** Thursday, July 09, 2020

**TIME:** 9:00 AM- 10:00 AM

**LOCATION:** Via Zoom

**FACILITATOR:** Jane Danforth

**NOTE TAKER:** Tina McLeod

### ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Jane Danforth	Tina McLeod	Shelly Blaisdell	Diana Furukawa
Tom Malcolm	Craig Worster	Peter Jamieson	Louie Pelletier
Katie Mackin	Bob Peterson	Kai Loundon	Barb Hayslett
Susan Adams	Jeff Packard	Jessica Fogg	
Jennifer Sheaff	Katie Mackin	Meg Crowder	

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

### Mobilize Katahdin Updates

**Presented by:** Shelly Blaisdell

- Shelly has received mostly calls for delivery of food and medicine, a few requests for fuel and gas
- MK is coordinating with the food pantries and grocery stores
- Requests for rides are coming in for transportation- we need volunteer drivers
- MK is working on getting the transportation service organized. Looking into the safety guidelines and protocols.
- Shelly has received more requests from northern Maine (Sherman/Patten) which is exciting. Word is getting out.
- Rack cards have been placed with food pantries, fire and police departments
- Next round of distribution will involve getting them to other businesses and town offices
- Shelly was working on getting rack cards out in the Patten/ Sherman area. Both the Chamber and local Sheriff Department were suggested as entities that could help get rack cards out in those areas. Susan offered as well.
- If any business would like some cards don't hesitate to reach out to MK
- Chief Worster would like more cards.
  - Tina will deliver more to Millinocket police and fire departments.

### Financial Update (from Nancy Dewitt)

**Presented by:** Jane Danforth

- There is no change from a two weeks ago- approximately \$5500 available
- \$1000 in project heat fund

## Masking Up

Presented by: Jane Danforth

- Update on the conversation from two weeks ago about the importance of masking up
- Shared some information on MK's website/Facebook page about Bangor's *Mask up for Me* Campaign
- Check out the website: Mask Up for ME: <https://chlb.me/mask-up-for-me/>
- Thrive Penobscot has funding to supply masks for free and is working on a plan to do so in partnership with MRH and Mobilize Katahdin
- Susan loves this idea but thinks a campaign is needed to get more people to wear masks
- Diana said that some PSAs are needed. She commented on how great Bob's letter was and that people need to see more community support. (It's on MRH's Facebook page)
- Jane is looking for local champions. If you are willing to have your face/name associated with wearing a mask and why, let Jane know

## Covid Testing

Presented by: Bob Peterson

- Covid testing is available in the tri-town area at MRH Walk-In-Care Monday through Friday.
  - 10:00am -12:00pm are the "normal" testing hours
- Katie says that MRH Walk-In-Care would like to have a call ahead to set up test time if possible.
- No prescription or referral from primary care is needed
- Walk-In will test on off hours, if they are not busy. If they are busy, they will ask the individual to come back
- Walk-In is not open on the weekend. If a person is asymptomatic, they can report to MRH emergency room.
- If the ER is busy, they will work as best they can to accommodate the patient
- Testing is a 24 to 48 hour turn around
- For asymptomatic patients, it's a cash pay service. Fee for Covid-19 test is \$75 and expected at time of testing. Patient can submit bill to their insurance.
- Diana is getting requests from people needing to print their tests results and wondering in the library could print them. Because they are in the middle of their move, they aren't set up to provide that service now.
  - Peter offered to do some printing at the chamber
  - Bob will look into providing the printed test results at Walk In
- Tom has had out of state people ask him about Covid testing. The people called ahead of time to set up time for the test and said it was an overall good experience.

## Mask and safety guidelines concerns

- Susan says there is an issue in northern Maine with people not wearing masks. She has calls come in several times a day with people wanting to come to northern Maine because they think there is no virus up there.
- Concerned that businesses are not enforcing mask wearing or following protocol – The southern part of the State is doing a good job- but they are mandated by the Governor's Executive Order for masking. Some feel safer shopping in Bangor and Portland (further south) due to adherence to Governor's order.
- Shelley F: people need to be educated on how to properly wear a mask (cover both nose and mouth)
- Diana: Creating PSA's is a good idea

- Need to come up with wording for the message. It can't be political.
- Tom: The town (Millinocket) will support a public service announcement around masking.
- Jessica Fogg (Maine CDC): OSHA and the CDC has information on how to properly wear a mask
- Jessica wondered how business feel about it (enforcing/not enforcing), if they are or aren't doing it, what the local Chamber's position, etc. Perhaps put articles in the paper about masking as a "good" public health practice, not support vs nonsupport – something to think about messaging wise. Great idea to use Bangor's materials around Mask up for Me- those materials are available to "localize."
- Jessica said they (CDC) will be closely watching the case count following the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday
- Jessica asked if any towns applied for the municipal funding that came out. That money could be used to purchase hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies for town offices, signage, potential education for businesses.
  - Nobody knew if any towns had applied
  - Deadline was June 20<sup>th</sup> – not sure there will be another round of funding or not
- Barb said she thought a barrier to the towns applying for the funding would go to the education push that they had already done and none of the money would be able to be utilized for the funds they had expended. She would be in favor of the grant opening back up
- Tom said Millinocket looked hard at the grant, but he thought Millinocket could not do justice to what the grant wanted. There was a lot of reinforcement regarding masks and safety protocols and Millinocket doesn't have the manpower as he thinks other small towns may not.
- Tom asked Peter how what the members felt about people needing to wear masks when going into their facility
  - Peter replied that not only the members, but the business community is extremely divided
- Shelley F suggested that this issue be brought to the communications meeting to discuss
- Bob commented that the hospital is the one business that is setting the example for universal masking. Everyone is masked. It is "normal." No one looks different. There is no pushback. Masks cut down on the spread of the virus. If it's required, then wear one. Overtime, mask wearing will become the new norm.
- Bob: Corona is becoming more prevalent and widespread. It is not going away. It is not just a "cold virus" it is bad. People are really sick. We need to come together as a community and knock it down. Bob is concerned with people who are not serious about this. If there is an out break in Millinocket, the hospital staff will be at risk.

## **Katahdin Community Stimulus**

**Presented by:** Peter Jamieson

- Round one of Katahdin Community Stimulus Saturday starting at 10:00am at the chamber, this Saturday. Will be set up outside for safety.
  - Round 2 in Medway and round 3 in Patten
- Buy a gift certificate from Peter and he will double the money and pay the businesses from the sponsorship that Brookfield set up.
- Working on collaborating with Our Katahdin to possibly have it available online in the future

## Eastern Area Agency on Aging

Presented by: Jennifer Sheaff

- EAAA continues to collaborate with Mobilize Katahdin reimbursing them 20 dollars for each event that occurs
- Meals on Wheels continues in the 4 counties that EAAA serves
- Community supplemental food or senior food boxes as well as the Furry Friends food bank continues to help cut down on food insecurity
- Continuing to work with people on Medicare support and assistance. Signing up people for the Medicare Savings Program as well as helping people process SNAP applications through DHHS
- The Caregiver Support Program continues with no waiting list on respite providers
- EAAA is open via phone but not in person at this time
- In February, there were 381 Meals on Wheels consumers, now there are over 1000 consumers in 4 counties

## Good Shepherd Food Bank

Presented by: Kia Loundon

- Almost back to business as usual. Winding down on the LL Bean pantry boxes
- Feedback from network was that the boxes were helpful
- Lots of learning on how to customize boxes in advance
- Gone back to offering product to the network in case lot quantity so they can order in bulk what they need and put together their own boxes
- On July 6<sup>th</sup> we were going to go back to our regular fee structure but the grant funding that was delayed April – June was coming through. They extended the product at marginal cost at 16 cents a pound through July 19. Lots of programs are trying to get in under that deadline. A lot of food is going out.
- Feedback from the network: They are not overwhelmed with requests. Seeing a good number of new people. Seen a decline in the regulars possibly because they are being supported by government funds. Moderate increase overall. May be an increase in the future when/if government funds run out and school open up

Meeting ended at 10am. Next meeting date is Thursday, July 23 @ 9 am.

- Jane will send out meeting minutes and zoom meeting reminder/link