

Elizabethtown Area Chamber of Commerce

April 12th, 2020

Meeting Minutes via Zoom

Present: Matt Denlinger, John Yoder, Glenn Bootay, Neil Ketchum; Michele Balliet, Bob Enck, Carissa Hollinger, Tina Lutter, Toni Tice, Denise Thompson, Keith Yocum, Emily Drobknock, Natalie Dixon, Linda Lownsbery, Heather Hohenwarter, Meghan Philips, Heather Hohenwarter

Absent: Denise Thompson, Debbie Dupler, Sean Dolan, Frank Disorientate

Call to Order

- Approval of March 12th, 2020 Minutes moved to approve by Michele Balliet and seconded by John Yoder. Approved.
- Approval of Treasurer's Report- Matt- Moved to approve by Greg Grogran and second by John Yoder. Approved.

Old Business & New Business

- Natalie Dixon has resigned due to some family circumstances. Will be looking to rehire a position
- Heather has been working social media and using direct-direct member contact
- Launched weekly updates about what is going with each of our business. Each day there is information put out from the Chamber and members. Using this platform to help educate and keep connected with members and community.
- Women in Business Unplugged meeting- the idea of everyone feeling overwhelmed by the CARE ACT legislation
- Launching a first financial forum in April
- Working on a calendar feature- all retailers (member and non-members) can now upload their hours and specials while going through this pandemic.
- Regular calls with Lancaster Chamber and Lancaster EDC for updates.
- Lancaster County has an excellent COVID-19 webpage and it is now linked to the Etown Chamber page.
- Landlord- Jay Wagner- was willing to waive the office rent until June. We are accepting his offer and we are very appreciative.
- SBA loan application is filled out and ready to submit. For Chambers specifically there is \$10,000. 00 forgivable loan available. Additionally, working to put together an ETOWN strong t-shirt campaign
- Pulling together a forum to focus on assisting Elizabethtown businesses to understand the CARE ACT assist our members. Heather will share the list.
- BBT grant: the idea is to look at the \$5000,00. In the revolving loan could we ask to use the money as a grant. John Yoder moved to approve the \$5,000.00 in the Revolving Loan fund to be reallocated as Grant money and Greg Groban second. Approved.
- Dairy supply chain- Neil Messick coordinated a large order of milk to the community. How can we bring together producers and consumers to bring milk into the Elizabethtown area non-profits that would need it? Michele has not heard of the milk shortage. The school district is partnering with the Ministerium to provide food to families. We have 4 locations. Michele will reach out to her partners. There is an issue of liability – we would need to be concerned if we are a partner.
- Renewal notices are going out on a rolling basis- this process has been suspended
- Financial overview- we will invoice as mapped out at the executive committee. We have some reserve funds if needed. Would like to still plan the annual dinner this year. Will look at applying for the SBA grant to help offset any losses.

Downtown Business Committee – Emily Drobknock

- Group met last Friday and submitted a budget to Heather for approval.
- Etown Nights 2nd Friday page is promoting virtual events.
- Featuring the faces behind the businesses

Elizabethtown Borough - Neil Ketchum

- Having virtual meetings but still need to have a quorum to host the meetings.
- Bids on 56 South Market- bids were lower and concerns about having to put it on hold given the current circumstances.
- Police Department will be wearing masks now when interacting with the public. It's important for the public to be aware of this.
- Keeping essential services running, yard waste disposal is now available.

West Donegal Township – John Yoder

- Maintaining operations
- Having meetings virtually
- Had bid openings by live you-tube stream
- Maintained the road staff and working on campus so not in touch with the public
- Building is closed but accessed via appointment. They are selling waste bags but at select hours
- Some construction continuing in the Township with companies that did get waivers to work.
- Amazon parking lot construction project was on hold, but they just received a waiver and it will start up soon.
- The industrial park
- Concern about the EITC tax revenues

EASD – Michele Balliet

- The district has a very robust website full of communication to the community
- Board meetings are held virtually
- They are 4th round of Chrome distribution to assist kids to work virtually
- We have a COVID-19 website. The district is not getting a lot of direction from the State in a timely manner, so trying to work through the issues with many of our superintendents in the area.
- Rumors that prom and graduation are cancelled but they are not now. Waiting to hear from the governor as schools are closed indefinitely but hoping school will be able to reopen. Planning to be out the rest of the year but hoping to re – open.
- Working with legislature to request any property tax decisions be made at the local level not the state level. John commented that at the county level, they will change the date for when taxes are due- moving to t November 30th without penalty.
- Miscellaneous comments: Appreciate the connection with the EDC – they were able to offer a loan program and Carissa was able to take advantage of the loan- 0% interest for a year and the loan was approved and money is in the bank.

Adjourn