Economic Recovery Subcommittee – Tourism, Hospitality & Retail
MEETING NOTES – Wednesday, July 8, 2020
8:30-10:00am

I. July 8 deliverable
   a. DECD draft business support plan reactions
      • 300 million is not an adequate amount for the Tourism, Hospitality and Retail sectors
         o If small businesses took out the maximum amount ($50,000) only 4000 out of the 12,000 businesses in this sector would receive support. (200 million program)
      • However, the plan prioritizes small businesses first, which is a point that the subcommittee can support
      • Subcommittee supports the process of this DECD program (it is on the right track), with the following concerns
         o Needs to be more scrutiny of who is eligible
         o Who will provide oversight? A structure within DECD?
         o How can businesses most affected demonstrate the greatest need? How will this part of the program work?
         o Identifiers and criteria for need? Need a pathway to eligibility.

   b. Final deliverables to ERC – other recommendations from subcommittee
      • Mask education is key to keeping businesses in this sector alive. Subcommittee will emphasize this without a $$ recommendation. There are a lot of programs already underway, lots of different messaging out there, would be nice to see a single voice/same message.
      • Workforce
         o Industry faces a huge skills gap. State needs training programs for the hospitality industry along with the
businesses that support this sector, electricians, HVAC, etc.

- Workforce training programs needed for
  - Recovery community, senior community, new Mainers, high schoolers, etc.
  - Industry driven programs cannot be overlooked – HospitalityMaine, others.

- Maine Office of Tourism – Update from MOT on what has changed in marketing efforts since the Director last spoke with the subcommittee. Hannah will work on scheduling an update after the July 15 report.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, July 15 – 8:30-10am
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TAeV0M1hREWzcs277Zw2Awv