

time	author	text
2020-09-24 12:55:21 UTC	Deb Brown	Good morning everyone!
2020-09-24 12:55:31 UTC	Shannon Hundley	Hi Everyone!!!
2020-09-24 12:56:39 UTC	Kate Easter (she/her)	Good morning from Limestone, ME.
2020-09-24 12:56:39 UTC	Deb Brown	Tell us where you're from, I'd love to know.
2020-09-24 12:56:41 UTC	Elizabeth Wood	Hi everyone!
2020-09-24 12:56:58 UTC	Abbe Hamilton	Abbe Hamilton here from the ledger transcript (newspaper) in Peterborough nh
2020-09-24 12:57:00 UTC	Shannon Hundley	We can see and hear the three of you :) Super excited to hear from Deb! Loved the Keynote!
2020-09-24 12:57:49 UTC	Emily Lavigne-Bernier	Hello! Welcome to the Main Street Track. Session One with Deb Brown! Once Deb starts presenting you can double click on her slideshow to make it bigger on your screen.
2020-09-24 13:00:33 UTC	Missy White	main stage session just ended
2020-09-24 13:00:39 UTC	Missy White	so expect more to join in now..
2020-09-24 13:00:40 UTC	Janet Bartlett	Woodstock, Maine
2020-09-24 13:00:41 UTC	Cindy Foster	Hi from Maryland!
2020-09-24 13:00:42 UTC	Julia Stuble	Morning from Lander Wy!
2020-09-24 13:00:47 UTC	Caroline Hurteau	Albion, Michigan
2020-09-24 13:00:53 UTC	Charles Cooper	Hi from Schomberg, Ontario
2020-09-24 13:00:53 UTC	Anjanette Brush	Taos, New Mexico
2020-09-24 13:00:54 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	Hello! Checking in here from Pittsfield and Alton NH!
2020-09-24 13:00:57 UTC	Lori Capouch	North Dakota
2020-09-24 13:00:59 UTC	Julia Stuble	Yes! Thanks to a LOR foundation organizer, Michelle Escudero
2020-09-24 13:01:00 UTC	Charles Whitson	Good morning from Taos NM
2020-09-24 13:01:02 UTC	Sara Levinson	Stanley, Virginia
2020-09-24 13:01:04 UTC	Dannine (da-noon) (she/her) Donaho	Morning from Lander!
2020-09-24 13:01:07 UTC	Eileen Sarson	Keene, NH!
2020-09-24 13:01:09 UTC	Nathan Karol	Bethlehem NH in the virtual house!
2020-09-24 13:01:17 UTC	Leslie Vogt	Pittsfield, NH
2020-09-24 13:01:19 UTC	maureen curtiss	Winchester, NH
2020-09-24 13:01:20 UTC	Shawn Marquis	heyhey folks - tuning in from berlin, nh, tucked in the white mountains.
2020-09-24 13:01:27 UTC	Lynn Skall	Hello, from Questa, NM in Taos County
2020-09-24 13:01:28 UTC	PETER DORAN	Peter Doran Brattleboro VT
2020-09-24 13:01:29 UTC	Cynthia Cutting	Greetings from Plymouth, NH!
2020-09-24 13:01:30 UTC	Colbi Ferguson	Good morning from my Old Kentucky Home!
2020-09-24 13:01:31 UTC	Tiffany Holmes	Good morning from the Georgia Chamber of Commerce!
2020-09-24 13:01:31 UTC	Tracee McKenna	Charleston, Arkansas
2020-09-24 13:01:40 UTC	Bailey Matteson	Rindge, NH I'm a student at Franklin Pierce University.
2020-09-24 13:01:44 UTC	Janet Bartlett	Nathan Karol Shawn Marquis Hi!
2020-09-24 13:01:48 UTC	Tara Bamford	Thetford Vt
2020-09-24 13:01:56 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	Really looking forward to this topic! We have so many aging and abandoned but awesome buildings in our town!
2020-09-24 13:01:56 UTC	Michelle Escudero	Good Morning from Lander, Wyoming
2020-09-24 13:01:59 UTC	Kirstan Knowlton	Berlin (Northern NH)
2020-09-24 13:02:03 UTC	Nathan Karol	Janet Bartlett Woot Woot Hello Friends!
2020-09-24 13:02:14 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	from Nelson, NH
2020-09-24 13:03:05 UTC	Nathan Karol	Beth Christy Draper the Contra dancing capital of the world!!
2020-09-24 13:03:31 UTC	Tara Sad	Tara Sad from Walpole NH
2020-09-24 13:03:46 UTC	Charles Cooper	There are no saviour companies.
2020-09-24 13:04:26 UTC	Joe Clifford	Lebanon, NH
2020-09-24 13:04:31 UTC	Caroline Reece	Hi Ya'll from Maysville, Kentucky!
2020-09-24 13:04:36 UTC	Katy Easterly Martey	Katy Easterly Martey from Manchester, NH
2020-09-24 13:06:56 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	Love your persistence Deb!
2020-09-24 13:09:22 UTC	Emily Lavigne-Bernier	If you have any questions, please put them in the chat. Deb will be taking breaks to answer questions and respond to your comments.
2020-09-24 13:10:02 UTC	Becky McCray	That is great secret sauce: Keep talking about the opportunities!
2020-09-24 13:10:50 UTC	Charles Cooper	The nattering nabobs of negativity. See if you can identify the „Äöleader,Äö and convince them of the viability a single project (something that interests them),Ä¶ Their followers will, well follow.
2020-09-24 13:11:53 UTC	Charles Cooper	Celebrate your wins.
2020-09-24 13:11:58 UTC	Becky McCray	10 out of 12 filled!
2020-09-24 13:12:13 UTC	Julia Stuble	Are there zoning code changes, financial incentives, other policy changes, that a town can enact to help fill empty buildings?
2020-09-24 13:12:51 UTC	Nathan Karol	SBDC's are vital to new biz growth process!
2020-09-24 13:13:01 UTC	Shannon Hundley	LOVE the incubator idea!!
2020-09-24 13:13:05 UTC	Missy White	Julia Stuble zoning code changes... :)
2020-09-24 13:13:12 UTC	Shannon Hundley	Nathan Karol agree!!
2020-09-24 13:13:52 UTC	Charles Whitson	There are code changes that can help, enforcement of those codes tends to be the major hurdle
2020-09-24 13:14:58 UTC	Sharon Beever	Do you have some printed info. about the incubator project that you could share?
2020-09-24 13:16:02 UTC	Michelle Escudero	That's awesome! Dodge ball fundraiser

2020-09-24 13:16:09 UTC	Becky McCray	Sharon Beever Deb's incubator project was informal. They just made it up! Free or reduced rent, help from the local resources like the chamber and SBDC.
2020-09-24 13:17:13 UTC	Missy White	Julia Stuble parking changes are one way to make MS more appealing. That's why part of MS looks like a parking lot with buildings in the distance, and original section is "walkable"
2020-09-24 13:17:48 UTC	Shannon Hundley	Love Vineland NJ! We have family there!
2020-09-24 13:18:03 UTC	Kirstan Knowlton	I love these ideas, and I'm curious how they handled buildings that really needed a lot of love before someone could use them.
2020-09-24 13:18:27 UTC	Sharon Beever	How long was the free or reduced rent period? One year or longer?
2020-09-24 13:18:39 UTC	Michelle Escudero	3 month
2020-09-24 13:18:40 UTC	Tracee McKenna	Has anyone taken their vacant buildings tour virtual due to the pandemic?
2020-09-24 13:19:02 UTC	Julia Stuble	And did Chamber (other?) subsidize that reduced rent?
2020-09-24 13:19:27 UTC	Julia Stuble	(Also thanks @MissyWhite re: parking/walkability. Charles Whitson, what other zoning changes do you recommend?)
2020-09-24 13:19:27 UTC	Sharon Beever	Thank you Michelle
2020-09-24 13:19:28 UTC	Nathan Karol	Kirstan Knowlton - looking at Franklin NH and some key players there - and their resources/methods is a good start. avail funding etc. happy to connect/share info
2020-09-24 13:20:31 UTC	Charles Whitson	Yes, the absentee owner who has ridiculously high rents...
2020-09-24 13:21:12 UTC	Kirstan Knowlton	Nathan Karol Thank you that would be great. It's not my wheelhouse, but I am curious about learning more so I can be a positive voice in the conversation. Berlin has so many empty store fronts, but many of them are on the verge of being torn down.
2020-09-24 13:22:05 UTC	Becky McCray	What a smart move to deal with the ridiculous rents: I love offering to fill the building, if they'll let you set the rent.
2020-09-24 13:22:47 UTC	Missy White	Deb Brown any suggestions on how to make local regulations more restrictive than State level? That's a challenge for us in WY. Very low interest/ability to have local restrictions more restrictive
2020-09-24 13:23:32 UTC	Becky McCray	Julia Stuble I'm pretty sure that the reduced rent in Deb's incubator was not subsidized. The building owners did get to ask for utilities.
2020-09-24 13:23:42 UTC	Caroline Reece	What was that town who had the fire inspections twice a year?
2020-09-24 13:24:02 UTC	Abbe Hamilton	Is there any long term downside to community owned buildings (like in the incubator model)? Such as the disincentive of not having building equity?
2020-09-24 13:24:09 UTC	Caroline Reece	thanks1
2020-09-24 13:24:29 UTC	Becky McCray	Sharon Beever I think the free rent was one year?
2020-09-24 13:24:35 UTC	Shawn Marquiss	i have thought about placing colored, cheery lighting inside of our many vacant buildings, so that windowfronts are illuminated and not sad. perhaps bringing attention to what's possible for the location rather than just driving by the gloom. has anyone heard of this being done?
2020-09-24 13:24:36 UTC	Lynn Skall	What other businesses benefitted from the incubator project?
2020-09-24 13:24:46 UTC	Nathan Karol	Scenario - I'm a fledgling entrepreneur with a dream to invest in properties to build community - Not much more than a few cents to throw in the ring - Am I best to start a NP to house, then apply for grants, or find private investors? or both?
2020-09-24 13:25:19 UTC	Susan Odum	I really like the fire department inspection idea - given that a fire in a vacant building could take out the whole downtown.
2020-09-24 13:25:24 UTC	Abbe Hamilton	what is the best way/message to engage non responsive landowners?
2020-09-24 13:26:18 UTC	Nathan Karol	A great reminder to gather the crowd - thanks Deb
2020-09-24 13:26:39 UTC	Charles Whitson	Julia Stuble we are working on an ordinance with our town around vacant buildings, owners will not have to pay a fine if they agree to participate in a similar program Deb is discussing
2020-09-24 13:26:39 UTC	Lynn Skall	Do you have any success stories about shared work spaces using a previously vacant bldg?
2020-09-24 13:27:42 UTC	Julia Stuble	Thanks Charles!
2020-09-24 13:27:46 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	Nathan Karol I'm also looking and learning from Franklin based on a makerspace they created there but has since closed.
2020-09-24 13:28:01 UTC	Shannon Hundley	deb@saveyour.town
2020-09-24 13:28:02 UTC	Sharon Beever	Here in Cornish, Maine, we have C.A.B. (Cornish Association of Business) and they actually work together to encourage new business. They also promote the area with events like The Apple Festival and the Strawberry Festival, which both draw huge crowds
2020-09-24 13:28:28 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Deb you're awesome!
2020-09-24 13:28:47 UTC	Emily Lavigne-Bernier	Beth Christy Draper Agree!
2020-09-24 13:28:54 UTC	Nathan Karol	@kathleen - yea too bad it did - but the busn model didn't work and the focus seems to be on building out coop space to sell. Talked w the owner of those bldgs. Keep in touch. will send msg.
2020-09-24 13:29:11 UTC	Nathan Karol	sorry - condo not coop
2020-09-24 13:29:37 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	Sounds great Nathan Karol . Looking forward to connecting!
2020-09-24 13:29:45 UTC	Julia Stuble	Green River, WY divided an abandoned middle school into small office spaces--works great! And keeps historic building from being torn down.
2020-09-24 13:31:20 UTC	Emily Lavigne-Bernier	Georgia Mills Are you in this session? Are you hoping to come onto the main screen?

2020-09-24 13:31:29 UTC	Sharon Beever	What is so frustrating about attending this conference now is the pandemic - people aren't interested in buying buildings/opening businesses now. But, hopefully we can use these great ideas after the pandemic has passed.
2020-09-24 13:31:57 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	Great repurposing of the space Julia Stuble !
2020-09-24 13:32:23 UTC	Kate Easter (she/her)	Winthrop, ME did something similar. My aunt sells her aprons, quilts, and other fabric art at Freckle Salvage Co. Better than having to find her own space or going solely online.
2020-09-24 13:32:27 UTC	Becky McCray	Even during the pandemic, these window ideas ROCK
2020-09-24 13:32:57 UTC	Kate Easter (she/her)	LOVE this window idea.
2020-09-24 13:33:01 UTC	Sharon Beever	Becky - I agree!
2020-09-24 13:33:48 UTC	Becky McCray	Those flowers help dress it up as well
2020-09-24 13:33:49 UTC	Sharon Beever	Love this scene!
2020-09-24 13:33:59 UTC	Shawn Marquis	awesome window ideas!
2020-09-24 13:34:41 UTC	Caroline Hurteau	I host a holiday pop-up shop between thanksgiving and christmas in downtown Albion. Gives local makers an opportunity to sell in a space during the holiday season
2020-09-24 13:34:48 UTC	Michelle Escudero	Taos have artist filling vacant windows: Windows on the Future
2020-09-24 13:34:51 UTC	Missy White	We have a few different locations where people share MS space (Lander, WY)
2020-09-24 13:34:57 UTC	Cynthia Cutting	Partnering with local artists during the pandemic would be so great
2020-09-24 13:35:05 UTC	Shannon Hundley	We have hosted pop-ups in our candy store as well! We generally try for at least 3 month increments
2020-09-24 13:35:08 UTC	Caroline Hurteau	The pop-up is in a vacant building
2020-09-24 13:35:13 UTC	Dannine (da-noon) (she/her) Donaho	We rented a large warehouse type space, then divided it into artist spaces...creating a sort of arts incubator...
2020-09-24 13:35:24 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	We're considering partnering with a national labor organization (RAISE) to convert our store into a food pantry on the days we are currently closed.
2020-09-24 13:35:53 UTC	Lori Hunter	renting for community space...events, parties, weddings etc
2020-09-24 13:36:05 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	Exactly!
2020-09-24 13:36:15 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	We receive a grant to get all costs covered for the food pantry
2020-09-24 13:36:21 UTC	Michelle Escudero	Dannine Donaho with a retail front space: Alchemy
2020-09-24 13:36:22 UTC	Janet Bartlett	There is a great shared space, business model in Bethel Maine. An old barn, The Philbrook Pace.
2020-09-24 13:36:30 UTC	Becky McCray	So smart to get multiple uses out of one space.
2020-09-24 13:36:58 UTC	Janet Bartlett	The Philbrook Place not Pace ;-)
2020-09-24 13:37:01 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Can you say more about "Alchemy"?
2020-09-24 13:38:23 UTC	Lori Hunter	Alchemy is an artists' co-op. 16 artists share the space and run a retail store, each paying a share of the rent. In Lander.
2020-09-24 13:38:30 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Cool!
2020-09-24 13:39:30 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Lori Hunter thanks!
2020-09-24 13:39:56 UTC	Dannine (da-noon) (she/her) Donaho	Alchemy was founded by a small group of artists in Lander, Wyoming to share work time and space to sell art. It's coming on 4 or 5 years now! It is in the same building as Studio 320-- the artist incubator space I mentioned earlier... Lori Hunter Beth Christy Draper
2020-09-24 13:40:40 UTC	Lisa Sieverts	our murals are a bit like the skillet, in being selfie-worthy and bringing people to town where they then get hungry
2020-09-24 13:41:31 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Lisa Sieverts I agree
2020-09-24 13:41:46 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Love this!
2020-09-24 13:42:11 UTC	Emily Lavigne-Bernier	Yes!! Lisa Sieverts We love our murals in Keene! Walldogs murals and beyond. https://www.walldogsinkeene.com/about/
2020-09-24 13:42:19 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	THAT IS SPECTACULAR
2020-09-24 13:42:29 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	So creative!
2020-09-24 13:43:33 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Pollinator food!
2020-09-24 13:43:58 UTC	Radically Rural	If you are not presenting as a speaker, Please do not press Share Audio/Video Button. Sit back and enjoy the presentation. Have a question - put it in Chat!
2020-09-24 13:44:43 UTC	Susan Odum	Where is the Tiny Market Village - I missed the location?
2020-09-24 13:45:10 UTC	Becky McCray	The Market Village is in Tionesta, PA
2020-09-24 13:45:20 UTC	Susan Odum	Thanks Becky!
2020-09-24 13:47:04 UTC	Shawn Marquis	the great thing is that there's absolutely nothing happening w empty buildings here in berlin, nh, so there's lots of room to exercise ideas
2020-09-24 13:47:08 UTC	Michelle Escudero	Renegade Spark an art project is putting up "photo booths" in a city park on Main Street
2020-09-24 13:47:22 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Since I would love to see Keene as a walking village, can you share any stories of towns that have transitioned from cars to walking?
2020-09-24 13:47:40 UTC	Lisa Sieverts	BERlin is the pronunciation LOL
2020-09-24 13:47:43 UTC	Gaea McGahee	Questa Farmers Market is happening in what was an empty lot https://questafarmersmarket.org/blog/
2020-09-24 13:48:10 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Thank you
2020-09-24 13:48:29 UTC	Lynn Skall	Also In Questa NM we turned an empty corner downtown into a local veteran memorial

2020-09-24 13:48:30 UTC	Gaea McGahee	going on four years of caring for this space and we have gardens (including a truckbed garden)
2020-09-24 13:49:35 UTC	Kirstan Knowlton	I love all this creative thinking. I know we have such a negative narrative about our downtown in Berlin, but this shift in perspective and what could be possible is great.
2020-09-24 13:49:39 UTC	Sharon Beever	What great ideas!
2020-09-24 13:50:38 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	We have a selectman who is strongly anti- common space use without insurance. This is an obstacle for how the majority of residents feel. But the insurance issue is prohibitive to farmers (farmers markets) artist and musicians. Any ideas on solutions?
2020-09-24 13:50:46 UTC	Michelle Escudero	Dannine Donaho murals we need to get this going
2020-09-24 13:51:19 UTC	Lori Hunter	sidewalk games painted on sidewalks in Lander, WY. Hopscotch, mirror me, the sidewalk is lava.
2020-09-24 13:52:10 UTC	Nathan Karol	Beth Christy Draper have them team up with a non profit/chamber to be additional insured on their policy, and create a partnership/collaboration. - only about \$50-100 extra on the policy.
2020-09-24 13:52:16 UTC	Shannon Hundley	Beth Christy Draper can you create a sort of "group" that could house the insurance? For example a downtown group could be the host for the insurance. OR we have a local agency that was willing to offer cooperative insurance so it would be low cost for a store like The Hannah Grimes Marketplace.
2020-09-24 13:52:22 UTC	Becky McCray	Beth Christy Draper I know Deb has thoughts on liability and insurance!
2020-09-24 13:52:45 UTC	Missy White	Beth Christy Draper vote that person out!! And barring that, see if there's a way to have group of interested users get together and purchase joint insurance, with each group paying a portion of premium
2020-09-24 13:52:50 UTC	Becky McCray	You could do these banners on *any* chain link fence
2020-09-24 13:53:07 UTC	Lea Ann Seiler	great idea Nathan Karol! Thanks!
2020-09-24 13:53:16 UTC	Julia Stuble	Lori Hunter love the idea of interactive murals/sidewalk art for memory making..for tourists and locals alike! Also would love to see murals on back of Safeway (facing elementary school playground) and Mr. D's (other grocery store).
2020-09-24 13:54:03 UTC	Lisa Sieverts	Missy White Beth Christy Draper This selectman has good qualities like a tremendous devotion to fighting climate change by investing in solar and energy efficiency, so it's not just about voting him out
2020-09-24 13:54:12 UTC	Lori Hunter	Sidewalk murals/games are happening now in Lander! Julia Stuble three installed, 3 more to come!
2020-09-24 13:54:17 UTC	Emily Lavigne-Bernier	A local pizza shop in Keene made angel wings look like cheese and pizza toppings with a melty cheese halo. People love to take their pictures in front of it. https://www.instagram.com/p/CD4ZOonFN0Z/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
2020-09-24 13:54:41 UTC	Missy White	kiva.org
2020-09-24 13:55:12 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	That is amazing Emily Lavigne-Bernier !
2020-09-24 13:55:23 UTC	Lori Langlois	Shawn Marquis love your glass half full look regarding our empty buildings. I have grand visions to transform the old St. Joe's school into a community center...outdoor climbing wall on the back side, enclosed walking track on the roof, and then the typical stuff inside.
2020-09-24 13:55:27 UTC	Cynthia Cutting	We do a "Walkabout Wednesday" that features local art in local shops, and a time (5-7pm) for the community to walk around town- getting to know spaces and artists.
2020-09-24 13:55:29 UTC	Abbe Hamilton	pros and cons of using vacant lot rather than keeping it ready for new building
2020-09-24 13:55:32 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	@Missy Lisa Sieverts yes, it's not easy! But would like to figure it out
2020-09-24 13:55:38 UTC	Becky McCray	Liability and insurance, Deb
2020-09-24 13:56:12 UTC	Lisa Sieverts	Yeah, but Gallery Walks are all on hold around here, COVID
2020-09-24 13:56:31 UTC	Becky McCray	That Market Village in Tionesta, PA, used sheds so they could move them if the lot sold.
2020-09-24 13:57:46 UTC	Shannon Hundley	Brattleboro VT is safely doing First Friday's again! They are about to launch a "Battleship" game board "passport" for their downtown walk next month!
2020-09-24 13:58:19 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Love that creativity Shannon Hundley !
2020-09-24 13:58:40 UTC	Cynthia Cutting	Shannon, I'd lke to hear more about that battleship strategy!
2020-09-24 13:58:42 UTC	Kate Easter (she/her)	Lisa Sieverts -- would it be a possibility to make a gallery walk "special" by requiring reservations for gallery entries (like they do at large museums in the cities)?
2020-09-24 13:59:42 UTC	Kate Easter (she/her)	Shannon Hundley -- yes, more info would be lovely. Thank you for sharing this idea.
2020-09-24 14:00:13 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Do you have/use an environmentally responsible (sourced) shirt company?
2020-09-24 14:00:13 UTC	Lisa Sieverts	Bar stool races, LOL!
2020-09-24 14:00:32 UTC	Kirstan Knowlton	Shawn Marquis the art sled race with Nansen!
2020-09-24 14:00:50 UTC	Lisa Sieverts	"We said yes to every idea" Love this
2020-09-24 14:00:57 UTC	Shannon Hundley	I would be happy to send the instructions we received for our store. You can email me at lifeissweetcandystore@gmail.com and I can share :)
2020-09-24 14:01:07 UTC	Kate Easter (she/her)	"Yes, just make it work." This is such a good thing.
2020-09-24 14:01:45 UTC	Kirstan Knowlton	Cow Patty Bingo!
2020-09-24 14:03:04 UTC	Caroline Reece	Did you give the events specific times so everything wasn't happening at once?

2020-09-24 14:03:32 UTC Sharon Beever
River Duck races - people buy little plastic ducks that have numbers on them. /they are all released in the river with volunteers at the beginning and end of the race. Nets across catch the ducks. The first duck to reach the end wins! People love it. Our Historical Association runs it. A local guy whom everyone loves announces the race as if it were a horse race. They sell duck whistles, etc. It is such fun!

2020-09-24 14:03:33 UTC Kathleen Menegozzi
2020-09-24 14:04:27 UTC Kirstan Knowlton
2020-09-24 14:04:28 UTC Lori Hunter
2020-09-24 14:06:14 UTC Beth Christy Draper
Such great ideas for events!
Sharon Beever We do that here too. It's so popular and people love it!
Love Duck Derbys! fun for families!
The Duck derby sounds awesome! Not to be a Debbie Downer, but I am also deeply concerned for the environment, and worry about plastic. I think a lot about making "stuff" that ends up not being healthy for us and our kids in the long run..

2020-09-24 14:06:57 UTC Bailey Matteson
My chamber back in Ludlow Vermont a did a scavenger hunt with a variety of different business involving neighboring towns (finding a specific piece in the business, one was a small teddy bear on a rafter of of the building.) If you completed it bring back the papers your name was put into a raffle for a box full small items from each business that was in the scavenger hunt.

2020-09-24 14:07:02 UTC Kathleen Menegozzi
We gave away free lunches for students k-12 while the school was getting their mobile lunch program up and running after the closing of schools.

2020-09-24 14:07:22 UTC Sharon Beever
2020-09-24 14:07:24 UTC Kathleen Menegozzi
2020-09-24 14:08:22 UTC Kathleen Menegozzi
Duucks are re-used each year!
Currently, we're hosting a voter information initiative 3 days per week.
We've also hosted a social distanced community easter egg hunt where our team painted 30 paper eggs that we hidden all around town. We gave the winners gift cards.

2020-09-24 14:08:24 UTC Caroline Hurteau
Just last weekend in Albion (what would have been our large annual fall festival - cancelled due to COVID), our local theater hosted an "Art Hop and Shop" A few local artists featured, a small beer tent and some live music. Our local children's museum also hosted a sidewalk chalk event. The chalk became part of the Arts event. VERY low cost, very safe and SOMETHING to do during these challenging times

2020-09-24 14:09:07 UTC Missy White
I organized "Taste of the Trails" this summer to get people out to explore our trail system (Nordic, but it was summer so people could walk-- invited nonskiers to learn about trails). Folks loved it and want to have a winter, ski based one

2020-09-24 14:09:32 UTC Kathleen Menegozzi
We've also hosted a workers rights event where we invited attorneys and non profits to educate our team and community about their rights in the workplace.

2020-09-24 14:09:42 UTC Beth Christy Draper
Hi Deb, I think you misunderstood my concern. My perspective is not popular. When we buy and make more "stuff" eventually it ends up in landfills, the microplastics end up in our water, earth, air and bodies.

2020-09-24 14:09:46 UTC Kathleen Menegozzi
2020-09-24 14:09:54 UTC Beth Christy Draper
2020-09-24 14:10:52 UTC Becky McCray
Love this idea Missy White !
Thank you for the info on the shirts
Beth Christy Draper what if you made ducks from scrap wood? Or recycled paper? And get everyone in town involved in making and decorating them

2020-09-24 14:11:04 UTC Shannon Hundley
2020-09-24 14:11:15 UTC Lori Hunter
LOVE the Easter Egg hunt! Thinking up our idea for Halloween this year...
Lander, WY has a wild game cook off event where teams compete with wild game.
Patrons pay an entry fee and eat all they want.

2020-09-24 14:11:28 UTC Beth Christy Draper
2020-09-24 14:11:57 UTC Kate Easter (she/her)
Becky McCray yes yes yes! Thank you!
My local Library just sold masks & beanie hats, ordered from a local printer (one of the few businesses in town), for a fundraising walkathon... in blaze orange because we are deep in hunting season here in northern Maine.

2020-09-24 14:12:11 UTC Charles Cooper
and there's probably lots of people in town with basement workshops would love to be involved in making those ducks... Just get them a pattern so that they're fairly consistent. Right there you've got a bunch of people who are involved in promoting the event for you.

2020-09-24 14:12:13 UTC Nathan Karol
Shannon Hundley - saw something on social for passing out candy - long pieces of PVC pipe - slide the candy down to the treaters

2020-09-24 14:12:41 UTC Sharon Beever
We have a "Polar Express" Holiday scavenger hunt for children. Families go round town to participating businesses, the library, a church, etc. and get their ticket punched. At each place the children receive a small gift - an ornament, candy cane, toy, etc. At the end they take their punched tickets to the library to hear a reading of The Polar Express and receive a silver jingle bell.

2020-09-24 14:12:59 UTC Beth Christy Draper
2020-09-24 14:13:06 UTC Shannon Hundley
great idea!
Nathan Karol YES! I loved it!!!! I'm trying to think of a safe trick or treating for downtown possibly?

2020-09-24 14:13:19 UTC Sharon Beever
2020-09-24 14:13:38 UTC Sharon Beever
2020-09-24 14:13:39 UTC Nathan Karol
The plastic ducks float well and as I said, they are caught and re-used each year!
Wooden ducks would be difficult to make so they float and last.
ha downtowns are mayhem when it comes to trick or treating - That'll take some brainstorming.

2020-09-24 14:14:29 UTC Shannon Hundley
Nathan Karol I agree! In PA for Christmas Santa goes around on a fire truck and throws candy at kids on each street. Thinking of maybe something like that?

2020-09-24 14:15:38 UTC	Charles Cooper	regarding the ducks, you're not looking for artwork. The ducks don't have to look like decoys. you just want them to float (mostly right ways up) and that's not hard to design. In terms of longevity they're probably only going to spend a few minutes or 1/2 hour in the water. You pull them out to dry them off and store them for next year. Should last for decades...
2020-09-24 14:15:42 UTC	Nathan Karol	Shannon Hundley - good idea for this year! - maybe there's a way to utilize e-commerce - buy handfuls of candy/bags of candy to be delivered to the house-- with a portion of the proceeds going to local nonprofits?
2020-09-24 14:16:03 UTC	Sharon Beever	Let's turn Trick or Treating into helping others. Children who bring non-perishable canned good OR fifty cents to a drop off place, receive a candy treat. All proceeds go to the local food pantry.
2020-09-24 14:16:57 UTC	Cynthia Cutting	Love that Sharon!
2020-09-24 14:16:58 UTC	Nathan Karol	Sharon Beever - awesome awesome
2020-09-24 14:17:02 UTC	Kate Easter (she/her)	Missy White - we have Women's Trail Nights at our local Nordic Center with all levels of hiking & trail running groups. There are local (high school, middle school, etc...) races. There are big, big events (i.e. world cup level) every couple of years. There's a Fat Tire Festival in conjunction with the local (i.e. statewide) brewers in the summer. They do smaller hiking and trail running "races" for those of us non-bikers. We do winter snowshoeing, skiing, and weekly snow-ga (when it's not freezing cold) as well.
2020-09-24 14:17:34 UTC	Missy White	fun ideas, Kate!
2020-09-24 14:18:15 UTC	Shannon Hundley	Sharon Beever awesome idea!!!
2020-09-24 14:21:14 UTC	Freddie Mayes	We added picnic tables to a green space in our downtown area to increase outdoor seating during the pandemic and provided a hand sanitizing station for the area. Positive feedback from both patrons and restaurant owners. Will likely make this an annual summertime activity.
2020-09-24 14:21:33 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Kate Easter (she/her) I am so interested in empowering women nature/community/self
2020-09-24 14:21:41 UTC	Becky McCray	Freddie Mayes really like this!
2020-09-24 14:22:08 UTC	Emily Lavigne-Bernier	saveyour.town/gift
2020-09-24 14:22:10 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	I'm doing an online Sister Circle (New Moon) and would like to start something locally
2020-09-24 14:23:15 UTC	Becky McCray	Deb, didn't you also find a way to extend the chamber's insurance for activities at events?
2020-09-24 14:23:50 UTC	Nathan Karol	Becky McCray - I was able to do that often - add as additional insured.
2020-09-24 14:24:11 UTC	Becky McCray	Nathan Karol great!
2020-09-24 14:24:25 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	https://www.globalsisterhood.org/
2020-09-24 14:24:37 UTC	Becky McCray	I know Deb also took the cost of added insurance, then split it up and found some local businesses to cover that cost as sponsors.
2020-09-24 14:24:42 UTC	Kate Easter (she/her)	Beth Christy Draper - just sent you a private message.
2020-09-24 14:25:19 UTC	Kirstan Knowlton	Beth Christy Draper I know many people who might be interested in this.
2020-09-24 14:25:48 UTC	Kate Easter (she/her)	snowga = yoga in the snow :)
2020-09-24 14:26:12 UTC	Kirstan Knowlton	snowga = brrrrrrrrrr lol
2020-09-24 14:27:38 UTC	Emily Lavigne-Bernier	The Virtual 5K was a huge success in Keene! They raised over \$20,000 with all proceeds going to local businesses. The coffee shop that I manage received enough money from the event to buy ourselves an E-Bike to make local coffee bean deliveries to folks homes and businesses!
2020-09-24 14:28:26 UTC	Nathan Karol	Emily Lavigne-Bernier You all are killin' it in Keene! Love Prime Roast!!!
2020-09-24 14:28:27 UTC	Emily Lavigne-Bernier	A happy and safe way to stay connected with our local community and wonderful customers.
2020-09-24 14:28:36 UTC	Emily Lavigne-Bernier	Thanks, @Nathan Karol!
2020-09-24 14:29:07 UTC	Kate Easter (she/her)	Emily Lavigne-Bernier -- \$20K! That's amazing. We are doing a Virtual 5K in Caribou, ME now and it will be interesting to know how much is raised. Not likely that much.
2020-09-24 14:29:21 UTC	Missy White	our local bike club did an AMAZING virtual event for a month-- collected info via Strava, etc. Awards for miles ridden, raffle tickets based on how many miles, elevation gain comp as well as longest single ride
2020-09-24 14:29:42 UTC	Emily Lavigne-Bernier	Good luck, Kate! What's the link? Maybe I want to run another virtual 5k.
2020-09-24 14:29:56 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Awesome Emily Lavigne-Bernier !!
2020-09-24 14:29:59 UTC	Missy White	look for Fremont Area Road Tour for details
2020-09-24 14:30:06 UTC	Elizabeth Wood	Kate Easter (she/her) if you send me your email I will send you info on the Keene 5K, I helped organize it!
2020-09-24 14:30:10 UTC	Sharon Beever	Deb, this session has been so helpful! Thank you very much.
2020-09-24 14:30:34 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	Thank you so much Deb!
2020-09-24 14:30:44 UTC	Kathleen Menegozzi	This was GREAT!
2020-09-24 14:30:45 UTC	Beth Christy Draper	Amazing presentation, Deb! Thank you SO much!!
2020-09-24 14:30:46 UTC	Becky McCray	Thank you so much, Deb!
2020-09-24 14:30:58 UTC	Julia Stuble	Thank you Deb and all! Very helpful
2020-09-24 14:30:58 UTC	Michelle Escudero	Deb you are amazing!
2020-09-24 14:31:01 UTC	Kate Easter (she/her)	Elizabeth Wood -- I don't know how you'd do it remotely, but I'm sure that they'd figure it out. https://swcollins.com/resources/news/5krace
2020-09-24 14:31:07 UTC	Tammy Piper	Thank you! Great session!
2020-09-24 14:31:08 UTC	Caroline Reece	Thanks so much for the info!
2020-09-24 14:31:16 UTC	Fran Huot	This was amazing!
2020-09-24 14:31:17 UTC	Tara Sad	Great job!!

2020-09-24 14:31:17 UTC Lynn Skall

2020-09-24 14:31:17 UTC Fran Huot

2020-09-24 14:31:21 UTC Kate Easter (she/her)

Deb, this was fantastic! I heard you speak at the Econ Development conf with Mark Lautman, you're so knowledgeable.

Thank you!

Thank *you*!