

## **Hartford Ad Hoc Committee on Coronavirus Response Meeting Minutes**

5/8/20 @ 4:00 PM | Via Zoom

**Committee Attendance:** Kristi Clemens (Chair), Sue Buckholz (Vice-Chair), Simon Dennis (Secretary), Becky Chollet, Barbara Farnsworth, Dan Fraser, Brannon Godfrey, Brett Mayfield, Martha McDaniel, Deborah Scribner, Gail Ostrout, Scott Cooney, Becca White, Chuck Wooster

**Community Attendance:** P.J. Skeeahan

**Kristi Clemens called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM** and called for a motion to accept the minutes of the past two meetings.

**Sue Buckholz moved to accept the Meeting Minutes of 4/24, Barbara Farnsworth seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.**

**Sue Buckholz moved to accept the Meeting Minutes of 5/1, Martha McDaniel seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.**

Kristi called for reports.

Brett Mayfield, the Town Health Officer reported that he has been distributing lots of masks. Hotels, worksites and businesses have been reaching out for masks and accepting them gratefully. The new Deputy Health Officer has started work. Updates from the Governor: No changes to businesses protocols. Some on the way on the 11th. Daycares opening on June 1st. Summer Camps would be permitted, that is being worked out. Stores will be opening in NH starting this Monday.

Scott Cooney reported that the Hartford Fire Department has contracted as a testing agency. Seven members of staff are on this job, beginning May 16th to conduct testing in Hartford.

Brannon reported about how the Selectboard responded to the Committee Report. It was agreed that communication with the Town will run through the EOC, which meets twice weekly. Brannon will draft an implementation plan for discussion with the Selectboard.

Subgroup Reports:

### **Stop-the-Spread**

Martha reported that ~250 masks have been donated and many distributed. Inquiries from Hartford residents are coming through about how to get masks. The disease does not seem to be spreading that fast in VT due to VT's care in mask wearing and hand washing, etc. Becky reported that we are looking to expand mask distribution to businesses and will be reaching out. Sue Buckholz has noticed some "mask defiance" and asked how this can be addressed. P.J. reported that thousands of folks at Quechee Gorge were not wearing masks. Brett mentioned that the Town Sign will move over to Quechee to share a message about the importance of mask wearing. Martha mentioned a practice of free squirts of hand sanitizer at public venue entrances

as a method for slowing the spread. The State Health Department has said that 100% of people develop symptoms within 11.5 days and so they are reducing the period of quarantine for new arrivals to 12 days.

### **Supporting Medical Professionals**

Scott reported that WR Family Practice and WR Family Eyecare both reported that they will increase face to face visits to 50%.

### **Support the local Economy**

Brannon reported that the subgroup has a new batch of businesses who did not receive the survey. Information from that has been coming through. The HBRLF was not initially receptive to the proposal due perhaps to lack of capacity to administer loans. P.J. said that he is disappointed to hear that the HBRLF is not keen on the microloan program. He mentioned that “this is a 100 year event. Where the money is, it should be moved out into the system.” Chuck mentioned that there needs to be proportionality between the amount administered and the amount of effort it takes for the committee to administer it. Gail Ostrout stated that the Selectboard has authority over the Fund and said that she would like to attend the next HBRLF Meeting and recommended that a Selectboard member attend the next meeting, as well. Kim Souza is the SB Liaison to the HBRLF.

### **Food Supply**

Barbara Farnsworth reported that that last meeting addressed the Neighborhood Captains with Jack Spicer and about the work going on with a diverse group of service providers regarding the distribution of food to voucher residents at 6 hotels. Skinny Pancake is doing fundraising to create meals for hotel residents. Voucher program end date of May 16th, has been lifted. There is no new end-date in effect.

### **New Sub Group**

Becca White reported that she and Becky Chollet had discussed a focus on resilience, financial, mental, emotional and financial wellbeing. It could be a sub-committee of folks who are liaising to other groups. How can the Town support safe social outlets. Barbara Farnsworth referenced a potential overlap with concerns that are being addressed by UV Strong and offered to support the group. Martha mentioned that it was not clear what would be the added value of the Subgroup as described. Deborah said that we should think about what the Town needs to be able to sustain itself over the duration of the pandemic which may be 12 to 24 months. Chuck mentioned that it is important to tie into the rest of the Upper Valley Service Network.

Scott C. mentioned the importance of community and that there could be something that this Committee could do to support people coming together. Becca supported this idea. Becky said she was thinking of the importance of support for the financial and emotional wellbeing of the

individual and family units. Debora mentioned that there could be an opportunity to bring the community together.

At this point there seemed to be two main themes rising up: personal and collective wellbeing. Kristi asked if we wanted to make this decision at this meeting or if we should wait a week. Gail said we should wait a bit before deciding. Barbara mentioned that this is an interesting time to think about the question of community celebration.

**Kristi said she was noticing a consensus that the group would make the decision about both future direction and focus of the committee structure at a subsequent meeting. There was no objection to this way forward.**

**Martha moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:18. Chuck seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at that time.**

Submitted by Simon Dennis, Committee Secretary