

Hartford Ad Hoc Committee on Coronavirus Response Meeting Minutes

6/5/20 @ 4:00 PM | Via Zoom

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

Community Attendance: P.J. Skeehan,

Sue Buckholz called the meeting to order at 4:06 and took attendance.

Martha McDaniel moved to accept the minutes of 5/29. Deborah Scribner seconded. All were in favor and the meeting passed.

Brett Mayfield reported that many businesses have been opening. Out of state travel can start on Monday for 48 counties throughout Vermont. Hotel occupancy has been increased to 50%. There were approx 150 tests happened on Monday. The testing

Kristi arrived and assumed the role of Chair at 4:12.

Brannon Godfrey reported that the Selectboard had modified the charge in accordance with the requests. Three proposals from Downtown Restaurants to convert parking spaces to dining spaces. These were not allowed for safety and health reasons. Most of the sidewalk dining solutions have been granted. Staff is working on setting up outside dining on the grass triangle at Joe Reed Drive. Some on street parking spaces is being designated to take out pick up. We received deliveries of 1250 masks. Masks are reusable cloth masks. HBRLF met again to consider the small business grant program. There was again hesitation, but the conversation turned more positive thinking of the funding from the Cares Act and new Vital Communities position. They will submit a list of criteria and there appears to be headway. HBRLF will recommend an additional 3-month grace period for loan payment deferral.

Slow the Spread Subgroup

Deborah reported that we have continued to put out calls for masks. We discussed packaging instructions. Becky reported that we had distributed 170 masks through the libraries. We are moving towards distribution at the Town Hall. Businesses have been submitting requests via email. Martha has three grant applications pending to fund masks to be made by Fat Hat Factory.

Supporting the Economy Group

Brannon reported that we are eager to see how the State Legislation is going to disburse the \$400M. P.J. said that Denise Sanderson is a great legal resource. It looks like the State is going to disburse \$200M first and then work on the rest after. Martha asked what the group sees

coming. Sue Buckholz reported that she felt that many businesses may close. P.J. said that some of the Hanover businesses that closed were likely to close anyway. Bed and Breakfasts are likely to be hard hit. P.J. added that Payroll Protection is likely to be available through the Care's Act.

Food Supply Group

Barbara Farnsworth met with the group that is coordinating food to voucher residents. Some requirements are being put in place which are predicted to reduce the number of Voucher Residents. As people leave the voucher program, the state food support will end for those who go elsewhere. This will place this burden onto the Town and Service Community. The group is not aware of the solution. This group will meet again this Wednesday to discuss long-term planning.

Communications Group

The current Committee make up is Scott Cooney, Kristi Clemens and Becky Chollet. Kristi reported that the group focused on the communication platform. People are asked to send along any messages to the group for compilation and vetting by EOC. Scott Cooney reported on the Vermont Alert system, a subscription service that individuals can log into and set up. It is the backbone of the reverse 911 system. The Town could push messages to subscribers through that system via email or text. The Town website allows users to subscribe to specific folders which correspond to specific topics of interest. Scott is working with the IT Director to investigate issues that Committee. Becky Chollet mentioned that the group talked about the possibility of a postcard mailing about getting directions for signing up. Kristi mentioned that perhaps the Resilient Hartford Neighborhood captains could help get people signed up.

Martha asked about the opening of Town Hall. Though the Town Hall has capacity under the 25% capacity rule, but there is still an order that everyone who can work from home must. For this reason, staff are still working from home despite their desire to return to working from the Town Hall.

Other Business

Brett asked about the Wellness and Community Connections and who would help to launch. Brett, P. J. and Brannon are on that committee. P.J. will reach out to Rotary. Barbara will reach out to HCC. Scott Housler expressed interest. Barbara will reach out to the Superintendent. Brannon will be the point person.

Becky mentioned that we could reach out to groups that do not feel well represented. Simon said he would reach out to JAG, HCOEI, and the School Board.

Becky Chollet moved to adjourn, Martha McDaniel seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 4:53.

Submitted by Simon Dennis, Committee Secretary