

Hartford Ad Hoc Committee on Coronavirus Response Meeting Minutes 6/19/20 @ 4:00 PM | Via Zoom

Committee Attendance: Kristi Clemens (Chair), Simon Dennis (Secretary), Becky Chollet, Brannon Godfrey, Brett Mayfield, Martha McDaniel, Deborah Scribner, Becca White.

Community Attendance: Dr. Remington Nevil.

After some techno-glitches involving sound connectivity, Kristi Clemens called the meeting to order at 4:08 and took attendance.

Brett Mayfield moved to accept the minutes of 6/5/20, Deborah seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Brett Mayfield reported that restaurants are getting set up and next week they will be allowed to incorporate upto 50% occupancy. Masks are ready for distribution. Business mask feedback: a desk manager was verbally abused by a guest not willing to wear a mask. Testing will continue on Tuesdays for 2 weeks and for the foreseeable future on half days. Pharmacies will test in NH for a price.

Brannon Godfrey reported via email read by Kristi that the town had posted email encouraging continued good practices. Scott Cooney reported that the Fire Department was working on a pro-mask video.

Kristi reported that she and several had received emails from business owners in support of the Town taking pro-mask action.

Slow-the-Spread Group

Martha reported that at the last meeting they discussed with the Town Manager and Police Chief about a mask wearing ordinance. We have been packaging and laundering masks. The Group wishes to avoid any confrontational situations, and yet they would like to support employees and businesses by putting forward a strong pro-mask message.

The STS Group is hoping to make it fun by making it a community project rather than a coercive moment.

A town statement would be a good thing to do, whether it be a Resolution or an Emergency Order. Simon reported that the Selectboard would take the matter up at their next meeting. Kristi, Martha and Sue will put their heads together to create a statement that HADCCR will review at our next meeting before sending it to the Selectboard.

Other grants to purchase local masks are in the works. The UVRT has offered \$500.

Food Security Group.

Barbara Farnsworth reported via an email read by Kristi that the state voucher program for people staying in hotels has been extended through 7/15/2020. The Upper Valley Response Team and Hartford Community Coalition along with LISTEN have committed to continue to supply and deliver meals to this community through 7/15. Numbers at the hotel are 117 as of 6/17, down from 157 last week. This aligns with the expected decline because of the new guidelines implemented by state for participation in June.

Hartford Community Coalition (HCC) staff and volunteers are driving the school bus route to deliver lunches daily to about 150 students and adults. HCC is also supplying food for walk-in lunch sites at all Hartford Libraries and White River School, Monday-Friday through August 12th. Potential volunteers are asked to click this link: <https://bit.ly/2Yq97hC>.

The group is meeting next week, 4pm on 6/23, people can contact Barbara for Zoom information if they would like to join the call. All are welcome.

Communications Group

Becky Chollet reported that she and Scott had met to discuss a single channel on the website through VT Alert. They discussed a campaign to get people to register for this. Any communication that this committee wishes to disseminate needs to be vetted by the Communications Committee. Once this happens, it can be posted from the whole committee, through Town Channels.

Infomercials are in the works. (Fire and Police Departments.)

Deborah Scribner asked about a Town Instagram Page. "This is a great platform for photos and videos. Does the Town have an Instagram page?"

Martha McDaniel asked if the Slow-the-Spread Group should update the info page on the Town website weekly? The group responded in the affirmative and it was agreed that STSG will do this.

Community Connections and Wellness Group

This group has not yet met. They are hoping to gather next week.

Public Comment

Dr Nevin said that he felt that an ordinance or emergency order that has an enforcement mechanism would send a more powerful statement that is commensurate with the nature of the threat the Town is facing. Simon and Martha offered explanations why the Committee had opted for an approach that was more encouraging and less coercive. It was confirmed that we could move forward with a stronger measure in the event of an uptick.

Kristi mentioned that she would send out a doodle poll to find a different time to meet and requested that all committee members be attentive to this poll.

Sue Buckholz moved to adjourn at 5:04. Deborah seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Submitted by Simon Dennis, Committee Secretary.