

Hartford Ad Hoc Committee on Coronavirus Response Meeting Minutes

3/03/21 @ 4:00 PM | Via Zoom

Committee Attendance: Scott Cooney (Chair), Simon Dennis (Secretary), Becky Chollet, Brett Mayfield, Martha McDaniel (Vice-Chair), Deborah Scribner, Dan Fraser, PJ Skehan, Barbara Farnsworth,

Kristi called the meeting to order at 4:02 and called for amendment to the 2/17/21 Minutes. There were none. Martha moved approval. Dan seconded. And the motion carried.

Town Updates:

Brett reported that there have been no outbreaks in Hartford linked to Dartmouth (clusters involving more than 2 linked cases). Brett had visited businesses that are frequented by Dartmouth students some of which had requested a 2 week break from hosting visits from Dartmouth students. Special note on communication breakdown: When Dartmouth's outbreak had >40 individuals, the State of Vt was unaware of it. Not until Brett asked students to reach out to the State did they find out.

Kristi asked how to close this communication gap. Brett has been working on this and it does not seem to be possible to close this gap. With Dartmouth there are intermittent reports but it is not consistent.

Re: Vaccines, Teachers will be offered vaccines. White River Office is overbooked. Everyone will be getting some J&J vaccine. Teachers who live in VT and work in NH should be vaccinated in NH. Vaccines will be administered at schools, smaller schools will be vaccinated within the next week at the schools. Existing vaccine sites will also be used as well. 2000 masks were allocated to the Hartford High Bands.

Scott reported that employees in public safety who are do not have contact with the public. Scott had checked with Lori Hirshfield and she is happy to provide updates about local businesses to the Economic Support workgroup.

Kristi reported that there was a violation of the open meeting law filed but there was not a violation found. Which is great. Google Groups has been identified as not the best method. Becky asked if this pertains to the emails or does it pertain to the document storage. She noted that documents have disappeared from the storage. We are not allowed to use the document storage at this time. We could make a case for it. If there are things we are working on, we should pull them down. There was general confusion. Becky asked why this seems to be rolled out for this committee and not for other committees.

HADCCRs current approach is to take a pause briefly.

Brett said that he felt that the committee's liaison should play a big role in resolving this.

Martha mentioned that electronic communications are paramount.

Becky mentioned that should we be reading the preamble that is read at Selectboard meetings.

Kristi recognized that this is frustrating and mentioned that she felt it is temporary.

Sub Committee Updates for the Group Today.

Slow the Spread

Major thanks to Brett and Becky. Mask distribution is going really well.

P.J. Mentioned that he is in communication with 220 of the total 600 Businesses. At the moment, things are going well. Some hotels and event businesses are getting hit, but restaurants are seeing a real uptick. Re: Communications, it continues to be a problem. If anyone on this committee becomes aware of Businesses that are in trouble, they should bring this to PJ's awareness. The 3rd iteration of Hartford Dollars is going to be kicking in soon.

Communication Workgroup

Becky mentioned that it has been over a month since the most recent post. She is sending out posts via Hartford Alerts. She has sent out offers for free masks.

Kristi mentioned that perhaps there should be some inquiry into the nature of the work of this committee at our next meeting.

Martha Moved to adjourn at 4:43 and thanked Thomas for his support at CATV. The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

HADCCRs next meeting will be on March 17th at 5:00 PM via Zoom.

Submitted by Simon Dennis,

Committee Secretary