

Hartford Ad Hoc Committee on Coronavirus Response Meeting Minutes

3/17/21 @ 4:00 PM | Via Zoom

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

Kristi called the meeting to order at 4:07

Kristi introduced the topic of the future of the Committee and asked what is the nature of the work going forward.

Brett mentioned that he felt that the Committee should continue. The Governor has mentioned normalization by the 4th of July. He sees a need for the Committee's work in food, businesses that relate with hospitality. The courts will begin processing a huge backlog of evictions, both in our area and throughout the state.

Martha asked Barbara about the group that is focused on Food. That group is doing a good job taking care of food insecurity. That group is well networked and well resourced.

Good work has been done bringing groups together and in recognizing service gaps.

Martha said that the tricky areas have to do with food, housing, business recovery, and the recovery of the people. Those might be areas that this group could convene parties. She also feels that it would be useful for the Slow-the-Spread Group to continue meeting every few weeks. It is important not to send a message that we are out of this. We might want to continue rethinking the membership. It is important to continue to have a member of the Selectboard to continue focusing on communication.

Barbara said she is hesitant to ask for additional community resources (staff personal) given how strapped everyone is for time.

It was agreed that we are not a duplication of UV Strong.

Brett said that the department that has interacted most with the public is Parks & Recreation. If we could get someone who is helping to network with other aspects of the service continuum, that would be a big help.

Becky said that Mike Hoyt had a great idea during his campaign.

If we are going to continue, we need to ask for the Selectboard to change our constitution so that we can make quorum (The committee currently has 17 members).

Brett: we have not had representation on the mental health end. Perhaps Whitney Hussong might be a candidate. Perhaps we could focus in on the broad sense of recovery. This will mean a lot of people without a lot of resources.

Tracy is still considering if she would like to be a member of this committee.

It was noted that Julia Dalphin had stepped forward to take Dan Fraser's seat as HADCCR's Selectboard Liaison.

Simon suggested that we should amend our charge and send a request to the Selectboard for ratification.

PJ said that there is a lot of help coming down the pike for local businesses. There are about 800 businesses in town, he represents 220. There is a lot of good work being done and we should be pleased with what we have accomplished. He can name ten businesses that missed the boat with potential grants. He is reaching out and missing some people. He is only reaching 40% of the people.

Becky said that the Committee could be helpful in connecting the other 580 Businesses with the support opportunities.

Kristi said that she felt that revising the charge would be a good idea. Deborah said she would be willing to take a first crack at it. She also asked what else can we do to support people having fun? Deborah will edit the first crack and Simon will revise and bring it back to the Committee and then we can bring it back to the Committee as a whole.

Kristi will extend the invitation to Tracy and Julia to attend our next meeting.

Becky mentioned that it would be good to mention that all are encouraged to prop up and clean off the Slow-the-Spread Yard Signs.

The Meeting ended at 4:53 PM

HADCCR's next meeting will be on March 31st at 5:00 PM via Zoom.

Submitted by Simon Dennis, Committee Secretary