

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

3/31/21 @ 4:00 PM | Via Zoom

**Committee Attendance:** Kristi Clemens (Chair), Martha McDaniel (Vice-Chair), Simon Dennis (Secretary), Becky Chollet, Brett Mayfield, PJ Skehan, Scott Cooney

**Kristi called the meeting to order at 4:15** and took attendance.

It was established that the meeting did have a quorum based on the assumption that the Committee has a total of 8 members present and 14 seats listed in the Charge.

### **Town Reports**

Scott reported that the Fire Department has been asked to do a sampling review of hotels that have Voucher Recipients to search for potential fire code violations.

Brett reported that he has also been involved with the searches regarding if there are any health violations in Hotel rooms.

Right now the Voucher System will continue through the end of 2021. All hotels are currently also taking vouchers. We currently have 140+ people in Hartford.

Cases are rising in Hartford as a result of the virus spreading into populations of young people. Some are getting sick. The biggest spike is people 20-29. The British Variant is spreading quickly and making people a little bit sicker. We are not getting a major spread, but Hartford does have cases of the British variant. The old signage on the webpage has been corrected by Dylan.

Hartford's Town Manager, Tracy Yarlott-Davis was asked how HADCCR fits within her broader vision for Hartford. We are at a different phase of the epidemic, not done yet. She encouraged multimodal communications, which is messages that go out in various media. She said that Town Hall will not likely open before Governor Scott lifts the State of Emergency.

Tracy reminded the committee that the Committee may have a role to play in helping senior members of our community learn how to register for their vaccinations.

Becky mentioned that we have not done a mailing. There may be an opportunity to reach seniors about how to register to get vaccinated in that way.

Becky mentioned that a big step forward would be if the town chose to officially adopt a communication channel and promote it at every turn. But the Town does need to make a commitment to a particular communication strategy.

Martha mentioned that it is really hard to do our work given the pressure around Open Meeting Law and that we may be seeing that in the drop off of volunteers. CCing Scott on our emails is a good method. This helps to keep our communication safe from an OML perspective. Online

meetings have changed the perspective of some people in the community. Would it save Town Staff time and energy if there was a special place that all committee emails dumped into.

The Slow-the-Spread Subgroup requests the Committee to consider requesting additional funding to create additional banners? Does the Town want to invest in updating signage. We are down to 348.02 left from the original \$2000. Becky has \$475.09 of receipts that she needs to be reimbursed for to cover past purchases of mask bags. **Kristi moved to ask the Selectboard to reimburse Becky Chollet \$475.09 to cover her past expenses of mask bags. Martha seconded. All were in favor. Becky abstained. The motion Carried.** Becky mentioned that \$700 would likely cover the needed costs for additional banners.

**Martha moved to authorize the communications subgroup to create and submit a budget to purchase new signage to Dan for inclusion on a subsequent agenda. Becky seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried.**

PJ reported that outdoor dining has been a savior for our local restaurants. He is looking for money for the small proprietor stores.

Becky asked if PJ is involved with the UV Small Business Coupon Book from the UV Business Alliance. Those sold out. And were effective in encouraging activity. PJ felt this was a good idea.

The matter of the Charge Revisions was discussed. It was agreed that the Committee would review a set of recommended Charge revisions at our next meeting.

Martha moved to adjourn. Kristi Seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM.

HADCCR's next meeting will be on April 13th at 4:00 PM via Zoom.

Submitted by Simon Dennis, Committee Secretary