

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

4/24/20 @ 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, Becca White, Dan Fraser, Gail Ostrout, Scott Cooney.

**Community Attendance:** Margaret Fanning, Aileen Lem, Jack Spicer, Michael Redmond.

Kristi Clemens called the meeting to order at 4:05.

**Martha moved passage of the minutes of the 4/17 meeting. Sue Seconded, All were in favor and the motion carried.**

Kristi called for Town reports.

Brannon Godfrey reported that the draft and preparation of the letter to out-of-state homeowners is underway. The Town is now working on the mailing list. Letter is projected to go out on Monday. He mentioned the ET Alert system which will run alongside the information dissemination plan that has been discussed and advanced by this committee.

Brett Mayfield reported that there have been a lot of calls regarding the Governor's latest statement. Working well with members of the different villages.

Scott Cooney reported that he is continuing with routine calls on Monday and Tuesday and reviewing these on Fridays and Monday.

### **Slow-the-Spread Workgroup**

Martha McDaniel reported that we now have a bin donated by Cassella. She is delighted that Fat Hat Factory has given 50 masks so far. They have been washed and packaged. The group will be working on distributing to citizens. Pipeline is open. Brannon has updated the town website to include the Governor's latest releases. Brannon and Brett revised the town infographic to include mask instructions and resource list.

Communications and masks are our focus.

### **Supporting Medical Professionals**

Scott Cooney reported that the group has not met.

### **Preserving the Economy**

Brannon reported that the survey went out and now has 14 responses. We talked about a concept that staff is developing in conjunction with the Hartford HBRLF zero-interest loans in the \$1-2K range to small businesses with payment deferred for 1 year and a

review at the end of the year to assess businesses ability to pay. Town Staff will report about how this can work out. The Group also talked about ideas to raise funds for small businesses, including possibly the Town contributing to a fund. The Group also discussed the possibility of convening property owners to discuss barriers to keeping business tenants in place. They will now be focussed on analyzing responses. Becca suggested gathering email addresses of business owners. Becky mentioned that the Group is also responsible for supporting the economic sustainability of individuals and families.

### **Food Workgroup**

Barbara Farnsworth reported that Jack Spicer attendanded their meeting regarding community gardens. They are discussing the potential for advancing the program. Barbara convened a multi-sector meeting to discuss food provision. They also discussed the possibility of a Town Farm that Chuck if following up on. Martha mentioned that there may be farms that supply restaurants, that may be a source of food while restaurants are closed. Michael added that he was very impressed with the response regarding the Sunday Gap. The Haven has seen numbers climbing. About 90 households are coming to the Haven Foodbank daily, about 40 more than normal with approximate 15% growth daily. Martha wondered about the Meals-Ready-to-Eat program. Distributing meals at airports. Kristi suggested that messaging could encourage participation by families who have not received support in the past. Sue mentioned that there has been efforts to continue the work of Hartford Farmers Market, and that they may benefit from publicity.

### **Committee Report**

Kristi said she will be working on the report due at the end of April this weekend. Simon Dennis mentioned that there may be advantages to bump the deadline to May 5th. The Committee agreed that this would be advantageous. Brannon said he would let the Selectboard know about the change.

### **Other Topics**

Becky Chollet suggested that the Supporting Medical Professionals could be reassigned. Simon mentioned that it would be good to have a focus on forecasting the rate of spread in relationship to different community practices.

Becca White said she would be happy to describe an additional workgroup and mentioned some possible focus areas. Michael mentioned that UV Strong is adding a new focus on housing as aspects of the economic recovery as well as opportunities for building affordable housing. Becky Chollet offered to join Becca in framing a new committee and mentioned that the Town planning ahead for the property Taxes that are going to be due in August. Becky also recognized that we are not thinking about the

emotional health of the members of the Town. Brannon mentioned that the Town is thinking about both issues but that it had not come before the Selectboard. Jack mentioned that the Town will be hiring for the Community Wellness officer, and asked if there might be interest in bringing this officer before the end of the fiscal year. Brannon said that there may not be money to do so.

After some discussion about schedules, **it was agreed that each Subgroup will have recommendations into the [Final Report Folder](#) no later than Thursday, April 30th at 4:00 PM.**

**Martha moved to adjourn. Becky seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:07.**

Submitted by Simon Dennis, Committee Secretary.