

Hartford Ad Hoc Committee On Coronavirus Response | Meeting Minutes

June 2nd, 2021 at 4:00

Attendance:

Committee Members: Brett Mayfield, Kristi Clemens, Becky Chollet, Barbara Farnsworth, Martha McDaniel, Simon Dennis, Deborah Scribner

Kristi called the meeting to order at 4:04 and called for additions for the agenda. There were none.

Kristi called for a motion on minutes of 5/28/21.

Brett moved approval as written. Deb Seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Kristi presented an update on the most recent presentation to the Selectboard where they ratified requested changes to the charge.

Town Updates

Brett Reported that things are moving towards the governors minute by minute count (to 80% vaccinated). He said that he is focusing on vaccination and that he is mentioning that there are still a lot of people who are not vaccinated. People are still taking masks. He spoke briefly about the Indian Variant. It is highly contagious. It also infects young people and people that are vaccinated. Though people who are vaccinated are not dying, Rather, they are getting a hard flu. People in the health department are concerned also. All of the Vaccines are working at the same level in response to this variant. If you are in a group and someone has it, you are likely to contract this strain.

You can go to the Vaccination Site to tell you on each day where you can be vaccinated. The vaccinations in the past two weeks have been about 80% full.

There are 133 vouchered residents. There are 30 that are going to become eligible on July 1st. Some are departing sooner.

The Town's 4th of July event will happen with food. Quechee also will be celebrating on Saturday. The Cornerstone Community Center will be having a block party in July.

PJ reported that most of the businesses are waiting for the Governor to give them the go ahead before opening for businesses inside. The biggest problem is staffing. The \$300 supplement may be inhibitory, and some businesses are feeling that this is the case.

Food Group Report

Barbara Reported that the Everybody Eats Program funding will stop at the end of June. LISTEN is serving 70 lunches/day. They will close for July and then open in person in August. The funding for the meals at the hotels is also going away. The Haven will continue to provide the food bank and are working on what can be done to help supply lunches. People will not be getting the same kind of calories or nutrition after the Everyone Eats Program ends. In other words, July 1st will mark a “Big Shift in Food Access.” 67 people who are staying at the Hotels will not have access to the meals they have been consuming.

Slow the Spread Update

Deb reported that, at the moment, there is not a great demand for more masks at the libraries. It was suggested that perhaps the rack that has been removed from Town Hall can be placed at the Chamber of Commerce. Brett said that, if a rack were placed at the Chamber, he would refill it as needed. Becky said that she is unsure if the Town Hall Rack had been dismantled.

Town Hall will become open to the public on an yet-to-be-announced date, some time between June 15h and June 26th.

Becky reported that if there is not a demand for masks at the Libraries, she would support moving a rack from a library to the Chamber.

Communications Group

Becky reported that a new round of banners had been installed in several parts of Town. Thank you Becky! They look great! An infographic that was designed by the Slow the Spread group was not able to be installed on the Website due to a lack of staff time to do it. We have stopped doing the weekly updates.

There was some discussion about what would be the most productive response to continued block in the communication coming from the Town Administration to the citizenry of Hartford.

General Discussion

Brett mentioned that perhaps the next meeting could be a hybrid meeting (both on Zoom and in person) to discuss and work. He mentioned that there are some things that are easier to accomplish in person.

PJ mentioned that he has gotten the impression that the Town and Administration is overworked and overwhelmed. Simon mentioned that he thought that bringing the conversation about Town communication to the attention of the Selectboard would be a good next step. Brett said that he felt that having a conversation with the Chair and Vice-Chair would be a good idea.

Becky said that she is questioning what there is for us to do at this point as the Communications Committee does not currently have a next step in mind.

Martha said she felt that it is important to bring forward in some way what we are learning about Town Communication.

Brett moved to hold our next meeting in August. Kristi seconded. All were in favor and it was agreed that we would next gather on August 3rd.

Martha moved to adjourn the meeting. Becky seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:03.

Submitted by Simon Dennis
Committee Secretary