

Hartford Ad Hoc Committee on Coronavirus Response Meeting Minutes

6/26/20 @ 4:00 PM | Via Zoom

Committee Attendance: Kristi Clemens (Chair), Simon Dennis (Secretary), Becky Chollet, Brannon Godfrey, Brett Mayfield, Martha McDaniel, Deborah Scribner, Scott Cooney, Dan Fraser, Barbara Farnsworth.

Kristi Clemens called the meeting to order at 4:05, took attendance, and called for additions to the agenda. She then called for amendments to the minutes for June 19th. **Martha McDaniel moved passage. Brett Mayfield seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Town Reports

Brannon Godfrey reported that the Letter from the Slow-the-Spread Group regarding a potential Selectboard resolution had made it into the packet. The Selectboard is also now meeting in person at the Town Hall. A Staff person will come at the front door screening attendees, who will be required to wear masks. Town Hall is now half staffed. The building accommodates wide spacing. The public is still admitted by appointment. Parks and Rec had their first outdoor concert on Monday evening. Pods were plotted out on the green.

Brett Mayfield reported that the concert process showed that we can hold events and keep people sufficiently spread out to maintain safety. The Town is getting calls in favor of mask-wearing. The Town Hall dispenser is losing ~12 per day. A mask dispenser at the welcome center would be welcomed. We now have < 100 people staying at hotels under the voucher program. Lodging in NH will progress to 100% occupancy for hotels. We are expecting a bigger announcement from the Governor on July 1st.

Scott Cooney reported that the Fire Department will be staffing COVID testing stations on a Tuesday and Thursday schedule through August.

Selecting a New Meeting Time

10 people had responded to the poll and Wednesday at 5:00 was the most popular time. Kristi suggested that we move to an every other week meeting time. Martha supported this. Every other Wednesday at 4:00 was suggested. Kristi will check with other members to confirm. It seems that Wednesday at 4:00, for 90 minutes every other week, beginning on July 8th. (We will not be meeting next week.)

Slow-the-Spread Report

Martha McDaniel reported that we have about 1000 masks left from the Town's purchase. The Town has received \$1000 in grants to purchase masks. An additional \$1000 may be on the way. There has been good demand for free masks. The Group has spent a lot of time discussing the Letter to the Selectboard which recommends that the Selectboard put forward a resolution to endorse mask wearing. After a discussion with an epidemiologist, it was discovered that it is not easy to establish a meaningful threshold that would not be effectively random. It was decided not to build an escalation from resolution to Emergency Order into the current recommendation. The benefits of a non-coercive method were discussed and Brannon stated that not creating an Emergency Order but rather creating a resolution was the preference of Staff. Becky Chollet said that creating an Emergency Order would be consistent with the Town's

intention to support local businesses. Becky also suggested that it might be helpful to request that the Hartford Police Department communicate with local businesses owners that they currently have the right to request the Police enforce a no trespassing order against customers who do not wear masks.

Martha said it is time for the Selectboard to make a Resolution. A letter to this effect has been submitted to the Selectboard. **Kristi moved to accept the letter drafted by Martha on behalf of the Slow-the-Spread Group. Deborah seconded and motion passed unanimously.** It was also agreed that Simon would remove the references within the existing resolution to the Emergency Order.

Economic Subgroup

Brannon reported that the Hartford Business Revolving Loan Fund (HBRLF) had heard the will of the HADCCR and the Hartford Selectboard “loud and clear” to administer forgivable grants to businesses that need them. The HBRLF has created a subgroup to evaluate this question. Lori Hirshfield, Kevin Ralleigh, Bob Hains, Mark Candon are going to work on creating the application.

Martha asked how businesses are doing. Brannon reported that some restaurants are doing quite well, but other sectors are having a tougher time. Simon suggested that PJ could submit a quick report on businesses that have gone under.

Food Security

There has been a lot of activity around food. A lot of shuffling around. The State is expecting to extend the cold weather program past July 15th and is working on creating more sustainable methods for moving food to hotel guests.

Communications Group

Kristi reported that the group is working on a postcard to distribute through the Town to get people signed up with Emergency Alert portal. Also working on a selfie campaign to encourage mask wearing. Kristie said she would draft a communications policy to clarify decisions that have been made about communications strategy.

Community Health and Wellbeing Group

Brannon reported that the group has met. Emily Zanolioni and Scott Hausler will join into subsequent meetings. Some discussion about the role of the committee took place, and it was decided that the group would act in part as a resource for businesses wishing to hold events.

There was no community comment.

Martha moved to adjourn at 5:10. Barbara seconded. The motion passed without objection.

Submitted by Simon Dennis, Committee Secretary.