

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

7/22/20 @ 4:00 PM | Via Zoom

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

**Sue Buckolz called the meeting to order at 4:01 and took attendance. Dan Fraser moved to pass the minutes of 7/8/20. Martha seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Town Updates**

Brannon Godfrey reported that he is expecting a recommendation from HADCCR for the Town to institute a Mask Order. Brett reported that the Governor is being pushed to institute a Mask Order. Scott Cooney thanked the Town Manager and Finance Department for including a sheet to instruct and recommend people to register for the VT Alert system.

### **Mask Order**

Simon gave some history of how this has advanced within the Selectboard. Martha said that she felt that it is not necessary for the Town to institute a Mask Order as the State is threatening to do so. She also felt that the coercive aspect of a Mask Order could have counterproductive outcomes. Brett reported that the Governor is concerned about the possibility of going backwards. There seems to be a 50% chance that the Governor will take this action on Friday. Lots of businesses are afraid of antagonizing customers and would like the Town to take this action on their behalf. Becky suggested that Businesses could be informed that they have the right to ask for the removal of non-mask wearers on charges of trespassing. Brannon said that the HPD has not made any public education on this issue but is responding to many

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

Martha reported that the School District is currently expecting to open for in-person classes in the Fall. The School is also planning to have Students wear masks and planning to have these masks supplied by the families. There is an idea that perhaps the School District could take action to provide masks. Barbara reported that the Rotary Club has received money to purchase masks. Perhaps some of this could go towards the School District.

The Town has been using the Masks that were purchased by the Town. These have been supplemented by 135 masks that were purchased from a local maker and some that are coming in from local makers. We asked for 500 masks from the Upper Valley Mask Makers Group. That request is pending. Martha worries that it will be a challenge for parents.

### **Economic Support and Recovery**

Brannon reported that the HBRLF Grant Program will open on July 31st for an initial round of grants of \$2000 each. They are expecting a quick turnaround. There will be some money (\$135K) coming in from a Vermont Grant program that will be allocated to a 2nd round. PJ has informed the group that the Business Navigation Position at Vital Communities was temporary and has ended. The SubGroup also discussed evaluation of the recovery. The Surveys are not effective in this. Sue Kestler is doing some one-on-one interviews about this and will get back to the committee with reports to help assess the state of the Hartford Economy. Becky asked whether the group has started talking about mitigating individual financial crises. The group has not, but understands that this will be part of its charge.

### **Food Security**

Barbara reported that the UVRT is no longer transporting meals to the Hotel Voucher Residents. The State will be paying a local courier to fill this gap. The Haven is serving 65 meals a day. Listen is Serving 135 daily. Both of these numbers are up from past years. The Haven Food Shelf is opening from 12 - 3:00 PM on Sunday. Barbara also reported that at the Food Group's previous meeting, Emily Zanolini reported on Lunch delivery, a seasonal program for the HCC, is ending soon. Barbara also reported that Emily is concerned about how these families adjust to the end of this program. Barbara also reported that Leslie for the Haven mentioned that Food Access seems to be slowing down as a result of either processing or transportation.

### **Communications**

Becky reported the Group has been working on two matters: 1. Getting people signed up for the Hartford Emergency Alert System (VT Alert) 2. Getting a social media campaign for mask-wearing going and off the ground. Reaching out to CATV and HCC about shooting video about mask wearing and use of their instagram account respectively. There is a list of Town Influencers. All are asked to go to this list and add people who they believe to be in either adult or teen categories.

### **Community Connections and Wellness Report**

Brannon reported that the Group has not met recently.

The group observed that this might be our last meeting with Brannon as Hartford's Town Manager. Sue mentioned she is very sad to see Brannon go and that it has been an honor to work with him.

**Brett moved to Adjourn. Deborah seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:05.**

HADCCR's next meeting will take place via Zoom at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, August 5th.

Submitted by Simon Dennis, Committee Secretary.