

TOWN OF VERNON



Office of the Mayor

14 Park Place • Vernon, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3600 • Fax: (860) 870-3580

www.Vernon-CT.gov

Daniel A. Champagne
Mayor

Michael J. Purcaro
Town Administrator

Dawn R. Maselek
Assistant Town Administrator

DRAFT MINUTES

Town of Vernon Recovery and Reopening Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 11:00AM

Via Zoom Audio Teleconference

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1. Roll Call

Members Present: Julie Clay, Town Council Member; Russell DeBella, General Manager of Reins New York Style Deli Restaurant; Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator and Recovery Officer; George McGregor, Town Planner; Andrew Marchese, Zoning Enforcement Officer; Steven Prattson, Building Official; Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency Management Director; Pauline Schaefer, Town Council Member; Lou Spadaccini, Town Attorney; Patrice Sulik, Director North Center District Health Department; and Daniel Wasilewski, Fire Marshal.

Members Absent: Chief of Police, James Kenny and President of Swiss Cleaners, Bruce Klotter.

Additional: Diane Wheelock, Recording Secretary

Roll call was performed at 11:03 AM by Michael J. Purcaro.

2. Public Comment

No public comment received.

3. COVID-19 Incident Command Update

Mr. Purcaro updated the committee on the Town of Vernon recent very successful blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross. The drive significantly assisted the Red Cross to address the very critical need for blood. The drive was held on May 29, 2020 from 8:30 – 6:00 PM at the Vernon Senior Center with all 105 available slots filled, equaling 100% capacity for the drive. The drive was so successful that a second drive is scheduled on June 26, 2020. Also the walk up testing site at St. Bernard's Church is in the process of being adapted to include a drive through area as well. Experience thus far shows that some of the participants have been driving, parking their cars and walking up to be tested.

Mr. Purcaro shared that per CDC Guidelines the Youth Service Bureau (YSB), as well as Parks and Recreation (P&R) summer camps are cancelled this year. Pools will also be closed for the season. Beaches and Parks will be open with restrictions. While we cannot provide traditional programming we are gathering information about alternatives and coordinating where possible. The YSB Summer Lunch Program is working with the

Vernon Board of Education (BOE) to coordinate this critical service. The program will be a drive-thru model at the schools. There will be options for those with transportation issues.

The July in the Sky event will be cancelled this year, the event coordinators are working with the vendors and delaying participation until next year with no additional cost to taxpayers.

Our CERT team was activated to assist the Town of Enfield with a mask distribution program.

4. Current Guidance and Orders

Shaun Gately explained that the Executive Orders provided by the State are ever-changing guidance. The Town continues to read through all executive orders and interpret the guidelines that best fit the Town of Vernon. Mr. Gately further explained that this pandemic is something much different than we have seen before it is important to the Town to help local businesses and community groups with interpretations of the guidelines the State enforces and remain flexible and adaptable as we begin to reopen one phase at a time.

Since the last meeting three new Executive Orders have been issued: 7TT, 7UU, and 7VV

5/29/2020 Executive Order No. 7TT

Takes several emergency actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the governor's civil preparedness and public health declarations, including: Reopening of barbershops and hair salons on June 1; and Amended prohibitions on large gatherings.

Shaun Gately shared that this is a change to 25% of capacity or 100 people, whichever is smaller for churches. It also includes outside gatherings up to 150 with social distancing measures.

6/1/2020 Executive Order No. 7UU

Takes several emergency actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the governor's civil preparedness and public health declarations, including: Mandatory COVID-19 testing for staff of private and municipal nursing homes, residential communities and assisted living agencies; and Determination of suitable work.

Shaun Gately explained this new order includes mandatory testing in nursing homes and long term care facilities. The call back of employees is also addressed in this order. Those employees who are called back and refuse, need to define their risk and the employer needs to assess and consider the risk to the employee and decide if there is no suitable work if unemployment should be continued. Michael Purcaro asked that Russell DeBella keep the group informed of his experience dealing with this so that local business concerns can be addressed as needed.

6/2/2020 Executive Order No. 7VV

Takes several emergency actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the governor's civil preparedness and public health declarations, including: Amended limitation on program sizes in child care.

Shaun Gately pointed out that this order allows childcare facilities to have up to 50 children, with social distancing measures in place. This is an increase from a previous order dated March 30, 2020.

5. Local Recovery and Reopening Strategy

Discussion ensued regarding permitting for area businesses. Fire Marshal Dan Wasilewski explained that the Fire Marshal's Office has made inspections and approval of the Temporary Outdoor Dining and Activity Application a top priority to get restaurants up and running as we phase in the state's re-opening plans. Many restaurants and clubs have been assisted. All restaurants and clubs are working to adhere to the guidelines and restrictions for outside dining.

Shaun Gately shared that PPE supplies and 50 new thermometers have been distributed to business. Michael Purcaro shared that the BOE and Town are trying to build supplies. Bruce Klotter, President of Swiss Laundry is a local connection for hand sanitizer if needed. Mr. Purcaro is also working through his supply chain contacts to secure N-95 masks (2500) and surgical masks (1000). Michael Purcaro explained that the Town will supplement businesses with the PPE whenever possible and is taking advantage of any opportunity available for obtaining PPE and supplies.

Discussion ensued relative to whether activities are cleared to return, whether parks being open included bathroom facilities, church gatherings, and public vigils for peace in light of the current national situation are being held here and what is the guidance on these activities.

6. Next Steps

The Board of Education and the Town of Vernon are working together to create a safe graduation ceremony.

7. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2020 and May 28, 2020

Approval of the minutes for May 18, 2020 and May 28, 2020 were moved by Polly Schaefer and seconded by Daniel Wasilewski. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Next Meeting

Next ZOOM meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2020.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Wheelock, Recording Secretary