



# TOWN OF VERNON

Office of the Mayor

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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, August 20, 2020 at 11:00AM  
Via Zoom Audio Teleconference

### 1. Roll Call

Members Present: Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator and Recovery Officer; George McGregor, Town Planner; Pauline Schaefer, Town Council Member; Lou Spadaccini, Town Attorney; Patrice Sulik, Director North Central District Health Department and Steven Prattson, Building Official Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency Management Director; and Daniel Wasilewski, Fire Marshal.

Members Absent: Julie Clay, Town Council Member; Russell DeBella, General Manager of Reins New York Style Deli Restaurant; James Kenny, Chief of Police; Bruce Klotter, President of Swiss Cleaners; and Andrew Marchese, Zoning Enforcement Officer;

Additional: Cassandra Santoro, Recording Secretary

Roll call was performed at 11:01 AM by Cassandra Santoro.

### 2. Public Comment

None

### 3. COVID-19 Incident Command Update

Michael Purcaro updated the Committee on the following:

- Eversource's response to Tropical Storm Isaias. All Town departments were working collectively to assist residents and recover from the storm damage. The Town of Vernon Department of Public Works staff connected directly with linemen deployed to storm clean up without going through Eversource which was a major turning point for recovery. A lot of time was expended with Eversource to make sure that plans were in place for storms like this and Eversource did not follow those plans. A PURA investigation is currently taking place.

- Vernon Public Schools has released their hybrid reopening plan, like similar districts in the Hartford Area Superintendents Group.
- The Governor's office released a report by Mathematica Policy Research "Study of COVID -19 Outbreak and Response in Connecticut Long Term Facilities" that examines how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted long term care facilities in Connecticut.
- The town is continuing to stay up on the ever changing travel advisory and restrictions.
- We continue to have COVID testing in town. We are up to almost 1,000 tests. COVID Testing will be expanding testing for First Responders.
- Vaccine update – It is looking like we may have a vaccine as early as March of 2021.
- Flu season is approaching and we are preparing our work force for facing dual pandemics.
- The reopening of the Library will take place in September.
- Sparetime Vernon is hosting a Hometown Heroes promotional event for the Town of Vernon and Vernon Public School employees.

Discussion ensued.

#### 4. Current Guidance and Orders

Shaun Gately summarized executive order 7NNN. This executive order repeals Executive Order 7BB and masks are now required. Mr. Gately further explained that this executive order requires documentation for not using a mask and that businesses can refuse service to anyone not wearing a mask.

Patrice Sulik explained that masks are not effective if the nose is not covered. If you have a hard time breathing when wearing a mask then you should stay home as much as possible. Mrs. Sulik further explained that when the vaccine is released, small amounts will be distributed and the CDC will dictate what groups will get the vaccine.

Discussion ensued.

#### 5. Local Recovery and Reopening Strategy

Daniel Wasilewski left the meeting.

Steve Prattson explained that there are twenty (20) commercial projects going on right now. Contractors have had some complaints that supplies are low and equipment and supplies are on back order. There has been an increase in lumber prices as well.

George McGregor explained that he is preparing toward extending outdoor dining for our local businesses in September.

Discussion ensued.

## 6. Next Steps

Michael Purcaro informed the committee that at next week's meeting that Shaun Gately will provide more detailed plan for reaching out and promoting our local businesses during the recovery and reopening phase and a representative from a local nursing home may be joining us. Mr. Purcaro further reminded the committee that if there are any topics that they would like discussed to contact Administration to add the topic to the agenda.

## 7. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2020.

Approval of the minutes for August 20, 2020 meeting were moved by Pauline Schaefer and seconded by George McGregor. No discussion. The motion passed with no opposition.

## 8. Next Meeting

Next ZOOM meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2020.

## 9. Adjournment

Pauline Schaefer made a motion to adjourn at 11:42AM. Patrice Sulik seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Santoro,  
Recording Secretary

