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TOWN OF VERNON

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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, February 18, 2021 at 11:00AM

Via Zoom Audio Teleconference

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Julie Clay, Town Council Member; Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator and Recovery Officer; James Kenny, Chief of Police; Andrew Marchese, Zoning Enforcement Officer; George McGregor, Town Planner; William Meier, Vernon Police Lieutenant, & Public Information 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 of North Central District Health Department and Daniel Wasilewski, Fire Marshal.

Members Absent: Bruce Klotter, President of Swiss Cleaners; and David Owens, Communications Specialist.

Additional: Cassandra Santoro, Recording Secretary.

Roll call was performed at 11:02 AM by Cassandra Santoro.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. COVID-19 Incident Command Update

Michael Purcaro updated the committee on the following topics

- There were 271,356 COVID cases reported since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Out of 33,808 tests performed, 534 came back positive which resulted in a 1.58% positivity rate. There were 27 new deaths – a total of 7,476 deaths in the State of Connecticut since the beginning of the pandemic.
- 6,349,932 tests have been performed since the beginning of the pandemic.

- As stated on the Municipal Leaders call this week, 27,931 vaccine doses have been administered as of 02/12/2021 – 65% being of the 65+community.
- The Town of Vernon has had the Towns of East Windsor and Willington join our efforts of vaccinating residents.
- We are currently working on doing simultaneous clinics throughout the week.
- Thanked Daniel Wasilewski, Marty Sitler and Michelle Hill for all of their work at the vaccinations clinics and call center. He also thanked Patrice Sulik for her assistance as well.
- There will be a clinic at the Hockanum Valley Community Council to address food insecurities and to vaccinate the minorities and the most vulnerable.

Discussion ensued.

William Meier updated the committee on the following topics:

- The Town of Vernon's partnerships and regional work is assisting with getting vaccines in to the arms of who want the vaccine.
- We are preparing for second dose clinics and combining them with first dose appointments.
- East Windsor Town Staff are now joining our call center. The call center at this time is very busy. We are scheduling individuals directly into the clinics we are holding and once are clinics are full we are starting to add individuals to a wait list.
- 211 mass notification system is currently being utilized to let people know if their vaccination appointment may change due to weather or any other issue that may arise.

Discussion ensued.

4. Current Guidance and Orders

Shaun Gately explained there are now a total of 89 Executive Orders. Two (2) new executive orders have been released since our last meeting: 10 & 10A. Mr. Gately summarized the new executive orders

5. Local Recovery and Reopening Strategy

Daniel Wasilewski explained that several businesses have reached out for opening in Town. He further explained that the vaccination clinics have been very busy and staffing at all aspects from vaccinators to data entry are all important to making these clinics as easy and convenient as possible. The Fire Marshals office is preparing to pass out batteries and fire safety pamphlets at the next vaccination clinic.

Steve Prattson explained that we are approaching the year mark of having closed the offices to the public to appointment only. Currently the numbers are up from one year prior so this is showing that residents/business owners are still actively working in the community.

Patrice Sulik informed the committee that the NCDHD second dose clinic is taking place on Friday at the Vernon Senior Center and the Change the Script van, an opioid crisis management organization, will be there providing goodies as well.

6. Next Steps

The Local Recovery and Reopening Advisory Committee will continue to meet weekly.

7. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2021.

Pauline Schaefer made a motion to approve the draft minutes from February 4, 2021. George McGregor seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. 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