



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, February 4, 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; Bruce Klotter, President of Swiss Cleaners; Andrew Marchese, Zoning Enforcement Officer; George McGregor, Town Planner; William Meier, Vernon Police Lieutenant, & Public Information Officer; David Owens, Communications Specialist; 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: Russell DeBella, General Manager of Reins New York Style Deli Restaurant; and Bree Maxwell, Owner of Studio 457.

Additional: Cassandra Santoro, Recording Secretary.

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

2. Public Comment

Jennifer Holt, President of the Rockville Downtown Association thanked Michael Purcaro for the invite to the meeting. She commended and thanked the Town of Vernon and Mr. Purcaro for the work to get seniors vaccinated.

3. COVID-19 Incident Command Update

Michael Purcaro updated the committee on the following topics

- There were 257,004 COVID cases reported since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Out of 12,782 tests performed, 482 came back positive which resulted in a 3.77% positivity rate. There were 24 new deaths – a total of 7,157 deaths in the State of Connecticut since the beginning of the pandemic.
- 5,866,793 tests have been performed since the beginning of the pandemic.
- The Town of Vernon and ECHN announced a temporary pause for the first dose appointments this week. This pause was initiated to make sure that the second doses were available to those who were expecting them.
- The Town of Vernon has all hands on deck. Call center is working on getting the vaccine to all eligible people as soon as possible.
- Explained that everyone needs to be careful what you read online. Use reputable sources.
- Maintain social distancing, mask wearing and hand washing – the new COVID variant is in Connecticut and more transmissible than the original strain.

Discussion ensued.

William Meier updated the committee on the following topics:

- The Town of Vernon is vaccinating regularly. It is very important to keep vaccinating the 75+ community. The Town vaccinated at Florence Mills yesterday, the week before at Rose Commons and we have been in contact with area living facilities and nursing homes to ensure they have been vaccinated too.
- There will be a clinic on Saturday, February 6, 2021 from 8:30AM – 11:30AM by appointment only. No walks-ins will be accepted.
- Martin Sitler and Daniel Wasilewski are working on the clinic volunteers. There is an application on the Town of Vernon website at www.vernon-ct.gov where volunteers can go to apply.
- The Town of Vernon has received calls from area Towns to ask how we are able to keep up and get our clinics up and running. The call center is being run by Michelle Hill and is very busy. The call center is assisting with setting up appointment and cancelling appointments for area seniors.
- The Town of Vernon was the first to Uber for their vaccination clinics.

Discussion ensued. Julie Clay and Pauline Schaefer thanked the Town of Vernon and Mr. Purcaro for the great job they are doing.

4. Current Guidance and Orders

Shaun Gately explained there were no new executive orders released since the last meeting, however there have been some guidance released from the Governor's office. Youth Hockey has been suspended and there was a removal of the cap on for religious institutions. No new executive orders have been released clarifying these.

The Town of Vernon has been working with CIRMA to ensure that the Town is protected and has immunities.

5. Local Recovery and Reopening Strategy

Daniel Wasilewski reported that he has secured 81 vaccinators at this time.

6. Next Steps

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

7. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2021 and January 21, 2021.

Pauline Schaefer made a motion to approve both of the draft minutes from January 14, 2021 and January 21, 2021. Julie Clay seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Santoro,
Recording Secretary