



# 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 25, 2021 at 11:00AM

Via Zoom Audio Teleconference

#### 1. Roll Call

Members Present: Bruce Klotter, President of Swiss Cleaners; Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator and Recovery Officer; Andrew Marchese, Zoning Enforcement Officer; George McGregor, Town Planner; William Meier, Vernon Police Lieutenant, & Public Information Officer; David Owens, Communications Specialist; 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: Julie Clay, Town Council Member, James Kenny, Chief of Police and Steven Prattson, Building Official.

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 278,184 COVID cases reported since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Out of 47,512 tests performed, 1,493 came back positive which resulted in a 3.14% positivity rate.
- 6,591,912 tests have been performed since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Vernon's Regional Vaccination program, that includes North Central District Health Department, has received national news this week for the efforts we are making to vaccinate our most at-risk population.

- The Town's systems and processes that working at all of our vaccination clinics is what is getting us media attention. We want to share our experiences and lessons learned in the most transparent way and share our experience with other communities so that they can replicate what we are doing here.
- CDC contacted the Town of Vernon to highlight Vernon's Vaccination efforts to show at their summit this week. The video was presented on opening day of their National Forum on COVID 19 on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. That video will be released today.
- The Governor's Office has changed the direction of vaccinations to age only now with a prioritization for school staff. It is a big change in direction for us but we are working on getting all persons that are eligible, vaccinated when we can. Vernon has been working with North Central District Health Department, Vernon Public Schools and Priority Urgent Care have an operational plan that is ready to go to vaccinate all school staff next week, if our doses are available.
- We are working on doing second doses now. Mega Clinic this Saturday – 300 first doses and over 200 second doses at the same time.

Discussion ensued.

William Meier updated the committee on the following topics:

- The Town has been very busy vaccinating individuals. Second doses have more complexity. Vernon's allocation is about 600 first doses and 400 second doses this week. We are fortunate with our team overseeing these major functions. Dr. Rampal and Patrice Sulik have been great to work with. Vernon has also worked with the Eastern Highland Health District as well.
- Testing has continued. We have seen a drop in testing. Sunday testing will continue.
- We are preparing for a call surge in our Call Center. The call center is receiving about 300 calls a day. These calls are very complex. Staffing is very important.
- We are meeting daily with Dr. Macary and Michelle Harlow to get rosters of teachers and school staff to get vaccinated. The clinic will be run by school staff and school nurses.
- Johnson and Johnson vaccine is going through final stages and should be approved on Saturday, which will result in more doses coming to Connecticut.

Discussion ensued.

Patrice Sulik explained that the Town's collaboration is a well-oiled machine. She appreciates the resource sharing and the assistance with second does clinics and the help both parties possess with overages. We are moving forward with getting vaccines to our people. The focus now is working on getting our school systems vaccinated. The goal is to get the vaccine allocations for all the area school systems. Childcare facilities are also on the priority list to be vaccinated. We will be reaching out to all Childcare Facilities in Town to start scheduling.

#### 4. Current Guidance and Orders

Shaun Gately explained there were no new executive orders since the last meeting. We remain steady at 89 Executive Orders.

#### 5. Local Recovery and Reopening Strategy

No new updates at this time from Town staff.

Michael Purcaro explained that a scheduled call with leadership at Rockville General Hospital and North Central Health Department will be publicly announcing that they will be beginning first doses and will be setting up a call center – When we receive that correspondence we will forward it to the committee.

#### 6. Next Steps

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

#### 7. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2021.

Pauline Schaefer made a motion to approve the draft minutes from February 18, 2021. Daniel Wasilewski seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 8. Adjournment

Pauline Schaefer made a motion to adjourn at 11:27AM. Shaun Gately seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Santoro,  
Recording Secretary