



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, May 20, 2021 at 11:00AM

Via Zoom Audio Teleconference

1. Roll Call

Members Present: James Kenny, Chief of Police; George McGregor, Town Planner; William Meier, Vernon Police Lieutenant, & Public Information Officer; David Owens, Communications Specialist; Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency Management Director; Lou Spadaccini, Town Attorney; Pauline Schaefer, Town Council Member; Patrice Sulik, Director of North Central District Health Department and Daniel Wasilewski, Fire Marshal.

Members Absent: Julie Clay, Town Council Member; Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator and Recovery Officer; Bruce Klotter, President of Swiss Cleaners; Andrew Marchese, Zoning Enforcement Officer and Steven Prattson, Building Official.

Additional: Assistant Town Administrator, Dawn Maselek and Cassandra Santoro, Recording Secretary

Roll call was performed at 11:04 AM by Cassandra Santoro.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. COVID-19 Incident Command Update

Michael Purcaro updated the committee on the following items:

- 345,948 COVID 19 cases have been reported since the beginning of the pandemic. Out of the 19,088 tests, 228 came back positive resulting in a 1.19% positivity rate.
- There were 6 additional coronavirus related deaths bringing the total to 8,161 since the beginning of the pandemic.
- The North Central District Health Department in partnership with the Town of Vernon received a grant to try and get the hardest to reach vaccinated. Several partners including The Town of

Vernon, Hartford HealthCare, Access Community Action Agency, Eastern Highlands Health District and Dr. Rampal of Priority Urgent Care.

- The Town of Vernon executed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Connecticut Council for Developmental Disabilities. The Town of Vernon was contacted by the State to utilize our nationally recognized vaccination program to reach individuals with disabilities.

Dawn Maselek updated the committee relative to the Town of Vernon's memo regarding the mask updates and public access. The approach the Town is taking at this time is going to gradual – the first step will be individuals in their specific department who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks, the second step is fully vaccinated individuals in their buildings do not need to wear a mask and lastly all vaccinated employees will be able to by conduct business throughout town departments without the use of a mask by June 19, 2021. All non – vaccinated employees are recommended to wear a face covering at all times when 6 foot distance cannot be maintained. This is based on the honor system and we will not require proof of vaccination. As for public access, all public encounters, vaccinated or not, will require both the patron and the town employee to wear a face covering. Boards and Commissions will be returning to in-person meetings, if they wish, after the second Town Council meeting in June.

William Meier updated the council on the status of the call center – the call center receives about 30-40 calls a day. The call center phone number has been transferred to our Social Services department due to the drop in phone calls received and is working well. The online platform, Sign-up Genius, has been working well and all of our clinics are located on the website with all information relative to the vaccination clinic times and type of vaccine given. Starting next week we will be conducting two clinics a week at the Senior Center – Wednesdays from 9:00AM – 12:00PM and Thursdays from 4:00PM – 7:00PM – We will be supplementing additional clinics during the week with outreach and as needed.

Daniel Wasilewski explained that the Town is continuing with smaller clinics. We vaccinated 51 people at the Vernon Manor Pop Up “You Choose” Clinic this past Tuesday. Next week our Pop Up “You Choose” Clinic will take place at 375 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066. Daniel Wasilewski also thanked David Owens, Communication Specialist for getting the word out on the Town's clinics via social media and the Town of Vernon website. Lastly, the Town of Vernon is continuing to vaccinate homebound individuals in partnership with the North Central District Health Department.

4. Current Guidance and Orders

Michael Purcaro summarized the memo released from Secretary of the State Denise Merrill explaining that the Emergency Declaration has been extended through July 20, 2021.

5. Local Recovery and Reopening Strategy

None.

6. Next Steps

Effective immediately, the Local Recovery and Reopening Advisory Committee Meeting will take place bi-weekly, as needed.

7. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2021 and May 13, 2021.

Pauline Schaefer made a motion to approve the April 29, 2021 and May 13, 2021 minutes. David Owens seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Adjournment

Pauline Schaefer made a motion to adjourn at 11:23AM. David Owens seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Santoro,
Recording Secretary