

# 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

## MINUTES

### Town of Vernon Recovery and Reopening Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 11:00 AM

Via Zoom Audio Teleconference

#### 1. Roll Call

Members Present: Dave Owens, Communications Specialist; Andy Marchese, Zoning Enforcement; Daniel Wasilewski, Fire Marshal; George McGregor, Town Planner; John Kelley, Police Chief; Lou Spadaccini, Town Attorney; Julie Clay, Town Council; Patrice Sulik, Director NCDHD; Steve Prattson, Building Official and Pauline Schaefer, Town Council.

Members Absent: Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency Management Director; Bruce Kloter, President, Swiss Cleaners; Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator and Recovery Officer, and William Meier, Director of Business and Finance.

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

#### 2. Public Comment - None

#### 3. COVID-19 Incident Command Update

Daniel Wasilewski updated the committee on the following items:

- There has been a slight rise in COVID cases in Connecticut and across the country. The positivity rate in Connecticut is 3.35% as of today. Out of the 16,037 COVID tests performed, 537 came back positive.
- We are closely monitoring in Town and will be listened to the CDC recommendations as well as the North Central District Health Departments.

Patrice Sulik updated the committee on the following items:

- The positivity rate continues to increase and the Health Department is keeping an eye on the trend as we enter another phase.
- Mask requirements for schools was discussed and that there are a lot more in person students this year.
- The Vernon Vaccination team is doing a great job and running multiple clinics. Positive to see all of the people who are still coming out to get vaccinated.
- Hospitals are not overwhelmed at this time and less people are dying from the virus.

- The state is working on data for fully vaccinated, half vaccinated and not vaccinated at all statistics. Fully vaccinated people are less likely to catch COVID and to be hospitalized by it but it can happen – underlying conditions and medication is going to be impact to those statistics.
- Need to be careful with reading things on social media and make sure you are getting your information from reputable sources.
- Masks are very successful in limiting disease. There were very little flu and strep throat cases this year as well.

#### 4. Current Guidance and Orders

Governor Lamont's Emergency powers have been extended to September 30, 2021.

#### 5. Local Mitigation Strategy

Daniel Wasilewski explained that the Town of Vernon never shut down during the pandemic. Employees are reminded not to come to work if they are feeling ill.

Daniel Wasilewski updated the committee regarding vaccinations:

- The Town has stopped the large scale clinic and has been instead doing 1-2 pop up clinics a week.
- Last Tuesday we did 34 vaccinations, last Thursday we did 51 vaccinations and we will be in Enfield today for a last push effort to get kids and parents vaccinated.
- The Town is currently working with the Connecticut Council of Developmental Disabilities for homebound and local clinics.

#### 6. Next Steps

The Local Recovery and Reopening Advisory Committee meetings are now being held as needed. We will let you know in advance when a meeting will take place and please reach out to Administration if you have any questions.

#### 7. Approval of the Draft Meeting Minutes of July 1, 2021

Pauline Schaefer made a motion to approve the July 1, 2021 minutes. Julie Clay seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 8. Adjournment

Pauline Schaefer made a motion to adjourn at 11:22AM. Julie Clay seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Santoro  
Administrative Assistant