

DRAFT MINUTES

Town of Vernon Local Recovery and Reopening Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 2, 2021 – 11:00AM

Via Zoom

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1. Roll Call

**Members Present:** Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency and Risk Management Director, Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator, David Owens, Communication Specialist, William Meier, Director of Business and Finance, Daniel Wasilewski, Fire Marshal; George McGregor, Town Planner; John Kelley, Police Chief; Lou Spadaccini, Town Attorney; Julie Clay, Council Member; Patrice Sulik, Director of NCDHD; Steve Prattson, Building Official and Pauline Schaefer, Council Member.

**Absent:** Bruce Klotter, President of Swiss Cleaners and Andy Marchese, Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Roll Call was performed at 11:00AM.

2. Public Comment – None.

3. COVID 16 Incident Command Update

Michael Purcaro updated the committee on the following items:

- Storm Update: The Town of Vernon handled the storm this past week well. Public Works was out before, during and after the storm checking on all areas of Town of flooding etc.
- The COVID vaccine availability is available in the community- The need to set up our vaccination centers has decreased with Urgent Cares, Primary Cares, Walgreens, Big Y and CVS having the vaccine available. If the Town needs to start up the vaccination centers again, we will but do not see a need at this time.
- Disability Clinics have been going great and will be coming to an end this month.
- Discussion ensued.

Daniel Wasileski updated the Committee on the following:

- There were 1,003 positive cases since Monday, which resulted in a 4.65% positivity rate in the state.
- Hospitalizations decreased by 17 since Monday, bringing the total to 363 hospitalized at this time.
- 23 new deaths were reported – a total of 8,330 since the beginning of the pandemic.
- The number of total tests performed since the pandemic began is now at 10,476,445, an increase of 21,582 since Monday.

William Meier gave an update relative to the Vernon Public Schools. Mr. Meier explained that the schools opened yesterday. School staff was working this summer on mitigation strategies and contact

tracing and that Nurse Manager Michelle Harlow and North Central District Health Department are working together for contact tracing. Vernon Public schools have been very proactive in keeping everyone safe.

Patrice Sulik updated committee relative to vaccinations. Ms. Sulik explained that it is still important to get vaccinated and that CT Data is showing that unvaccinated people are 5 times more likely to contract the virus. Masking continues to show that it has a huge impact in the spread of COVID 19. Urged people to wear their masks, especially indoors so that we can see an end to this pandemic.

Discussion ensued.

#### 4. Current Guidance and Orders

Shaun Gately explained that the Executive Orders have become more and more vague. The newest Executive Orders are 13A, 13B, 13C and 13D, in addition to vaccine mandates. Mr. Gately summarized the new executive orders.

#### 5. Local Mitigation Strategy

Town of Vernon will continue to monitor the pandemic and take actions as needed.

#### 6. Next Steps

The Local Recovery Committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis. Please reach out to Administration if you have any questions.

#### 7. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2021

Polly Schaefer made a motion to approve the Draft Minutes of the August 5, 2021 meeting. Julie Clay seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 8. Adjournment

Polly Schaefer made a motion to adjourn at 11:38AM. Julie Clay seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Santoro  
Recording Secretary