

Minutes of Warren COVID Recovery Committee

Special Zoom Meeting December 9, 2020 7pm

Present: Bradford Hoar, John Favreau. Ex Officio, Tim Angevine

Regrets: Frank Krasowski

Public Present: Margaret Layman, Melissa Woodward, Judy Shaw, Joe Manley, Joanne Marsh

- Opened the Meeting at 7:05 pm by Ex. Officio
- Completed introductions at start of meeting and briefly explained the group is small due to Melissa Woodward, Judy Shaw and Margaret Layman not yet officially part of committee. Board of Selectman to vote next week to add them.
- No Chairperson elected at this time; Ex. Officio will chair this meeting. Discussion had for a Secretary, John Favreau agreed to submit minutes with assistance from Ex.Officio.
- The best definition for mission of committee described in a memo from Paul Gibb of the State of CT COVID-19 Central Committee:

TO: DEMHS (DIVISION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOMELAND SECURITY) REGION 5
COVID 19 LOCAL LONG-TERM RECOVERY COORDINATORS

FEMA and the State of Connecticut are encouraging municipalities to designate Long-Term Recovery Coordinators and establish Long-Term Recovery Committees to identify and address unmet needs resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic. LTR Committees typically include government officials as well as representatives of the business sector, financial sector, private nonprofit organizations, and residents of the community.

Unmet needs are those needs remaining after assistance is received from government relief programs or programs of private non-profit relief organizations and include the unmet needs of residents, businesses, private nonprofit organizations, school systems and local governments. Ideally, the Long-Term Recovery Committee seeks to match unmet needs with existing resources, or, where resources are not available, advocates for additional assistance from the State or federal government or private sector organizations to meet identified needs.

Please provide the information below regarding your local Long-Term Recovery Coordinator, which may be found in your Local Emergency Operations Plan. If there is no one currently designated as an LTR Coordinator you are asked to appoint one. It is recommended this individual not be a first responder. The LTR Coordinator may or may not serve as the Chairman of your Long-Term Recovery Committee.

- Public comment: unclear of what mission is for committee. Ex.Officio agreed very broad scope, hopeful this meeting would clarify mission.
- Update on COVID in CT shows high numbers after Thanksgiving and a concern that a peak in numbers may not happen until the end of January. Numbers in Warren remain low, may be in part due to lack of nearby testing availability.
- Opened discussion about what the needs are in our community, including pre-existing needs that may be made worse by the pandemic. Agreed we should work to compile a list we could submit to the State Government, but also use for ourselves to address some of these unmet needs.
- 1) Group agreed there is a need for additional testing in Warren, as there are no sites nearby. Comments made that the Town of Kent is beginning a testing program shortly. The following announcement came out following our meeting:

Free Weekly COVID19 Testing in Kent

POSTED ON: DECEMBER 12, 2020 - 8:18AM

Through a partnership with the State of CT., the Town of Kent has been selected as a host site for State of Connecticut-sponsored COVID19 testing. This testing is FREE to the public; no insurance information or identification is needed. Download [patient information form](#) (*ONLY patient info box needs to be completed*) and bring with you. Testing vendor [Sema4](#) provides test results through their online portal in approximately 48 hours. Please read their [FAQ sheet](#) for details on instructions to create an online portal to receive results. Any questions, should be emailed to covid19info@townofkentct.org.

WHEN: Every Monday beginning December 14, 2020 from 3:00-7:00pm

WHERE: Town of Kent Transfer Station, 46 Maple Street, Kent

[Free Weekly COVID19 Testing in Kent | Kent CT \(townofkentct.org\)](#)

Emergency First Responders who are symptomatic will get priority testing if they make it known they are First Responders.

- 2) Discussed need to build, strengthen, and develop our CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program to assist with Food and Medicine delivery for this pandemic. The Town of Warren is preparing a link for training for members of the community interested to get trained. Craig Nelson is leading the CERT recruitment effort, and more information will be available soon.
- 3) Melissa Woodward commented that a COVID-19 Response Fund was created with a grant from the Berkshire Taconic/Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, combined with private community donations. Food needs have increased, doubling since pre COVID. Fortunately giving has increased to match most of the need for food. A

donation from the Good Neighbor Fund was added to the fund. Discussed ways to promote donations to the Good Neighbor Fund as well as Social Services.

- 4) Discussion of the need and rationale or count for vaccinations of 1st Responders and the Community at large.
- 5) Discussed the possible increased need for mental health resources as well as addiction services. Identify a safe way for high-risk persons who may not look on a website or read an email, to reach out to Melissa Woodward via a postcard mailing from Social Services.
- 6) Ongoing, consistent messaging to Community. Diligence with dissemination of information. Majority of community population over age 59, hence paper mailings may be more important. Work to encourage and build our town email list. Clarification was made that texts received were most likely received via the Everbridge reverse 9-1-1 system, not Town of Warren. Consider using paper mailings to encourage and build email list possibly with a marketing campaign at the Warren General Store to encourage community members to sign up with their email for a chance to win a gift card. Brad offered his marketing and mailing skills to assist in any way. John offered to add community information into his weekly newsletter for the store.
- 7) Need for ways to keep older population connected. Concerns for volunteers making phone calls to have basic understand and skills needed to address challenges they may encounter on phone calls.
- 8) Betsy Paynter, Northwest CT Economic Development Corporation, Small Business Outreach Consultant: betsy@discoverlitchfieldhills.com , has the mission to coordinate and assist small businesses in Northwest Connecticut in any way possible.
- 9) Concerns raised for long-term childcare, with possible longer term school closures. A closure of the local childcare facility affects jobs of employees, working parents who cannot get childcare, and the children.
- Public Comment given, appreciative of committee efforts.
- Group agreed to meet again on Wednesday January 13, 2021 at 7pm. Followed each month on the second Wednesday at 7pm until no longer needed.
- Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Minutes submitted by Tim Angevine and John Favreau

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