

**Somers Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) Minutes(Revised)**

6.23.20

Kibbe Fuller School

7:00pm

1. Member Introductions – **All those in attendance introduced themselves and provided their professional background and willingness to contribute to the success of the Committee’s mission.**

**Bill Shapiro - Attorney**

**Tim Keeney – Selectman and Attorney**

**Paul Salva – Physician/Somers Education Foundation**

**Jeff Golden – Captain Enfield Police Department**

**Allison Maynard – Social Services Director**

**Glen Reynolds – Emergency Management Director**

**Chris Boucher – Recreation Director**

**David Marti – Local Business Owner/Library Board**

**Anne Cournoyer – Retired Warden**

**Absent: Jeff Lipton, Local Business Owner**

2. Group recap of Covid-19 and its impact on the town of Somers. What has the town administration done thus far in response to the community’s needs, both residents and businesses.

- **Glen Reynolds – Emergency Management Director – met regularly once Emergency Declaration was issued. Meetings were held with town leaders to discuss impact on their operation and what they were doing in response to pandemic. Indicated that while there is no formal process or procedure, there is good communication and sharing of information/referrals between offices. Took orders for PPE and made deliveries to businesses.**
- **Allison Maynard – Social Services Director – The need for services has definitely increased but there are still a great deal of people who could use the services her department provides, but are not receiving them either because they don’t know the services exist or they are too proud. Meals on Wheels and Energy assistance have both shown a larger need. David mentioned Champs place and their gift card program for those in need was a huge success. Also, The United Way gave out 6 \$200 gift cards to eligible recipients. There was long discussion about “Marketing” the office of Social Services via social media and the town website and even a mailer to attempt to reach more people in need. Final note was that the ability to work seamlessly from home made a huge difference with the continuity of care.**
- **Chris Boucher – Recreation Director - Once recreation services shut down, Chris partnered with Allison and Jillian Connors from the Senior Center to begin regular wellness checks for over 200 elderly residents that are registered at the Senior Center. They delivered the Meals on Wheels and continued services through Dial a Ride for Dr. Appts. Chris indicated that each town department had a public service announcement that was put on the radio and changed every two weeks as needed.**

**Moving forward, the fields have been opened up and organized sports have begun to resume with restrictions. He will be running summer Day camp which will reach about 40 kids and he is working with Ken McCarthy to possibly offer lacrosse camp. Chris will continue to expand sports, health, wellness and enrichment opportunities as safety allows.**

- **Dr. Paul Salva – Expressed concern about the huge spike in mental health issues and the psychological effects of the pandemic. Hoping for some increased coordination with Social Services in identifying those in need of services. He also expressed a big concern about the well being of school age children both academically and psychologically.**
  
- **Selectman Keeney – Felt that overall the town response to the pandemic was good, with the Board of Selectmen conducting four meetings in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings during the pandemic to date. Would like to see the town be more pro-active in anticipating and addressing challenges. Mr. Keeney also feels like there is inter-community collaboration that has yet to be tapped into. Lastly he indicated that he saw this committee producing both a long term and a short term recovery report.**
  
- **Brian Czpala – School Superintendent , Vicky Clark - Economic Development, Mike Hevey – Resident Trooper, Steve Jacobs – Town Health Official (Recommend partnering with them and inviting them to the next meeting)**

3. Identify specifically: **(Discuss in depth at next meeting)**

- what we as a town have learned thus far; **indicted above**
- what things went well;
- what things could be improved upon moving forward;
- what things did not work at all; and
- what things still need to get done

4. Identify immediate needs at of today: Individuals (high, medium and low risk), and businesses (create spread sheet and identify all the registered businesses and contact information, put them into sectors (see below) so that we track them throughout each phase. **(Discuss at next meeting)**

Sectors are as follows: Retail, accommodations, sports, restaurants, bars, manufacturing, professional and financial, personal services and small business, construction and development, arts, churches, entertainment venues, and services operations and non-profits.

5. Crisis Communication Plan – (Glen Reynolds) **Continue discussion at next meeting**

- Facebook, Twitter
- Everbridge – **Glen to follow up**
- Virtual Press Conferences with Selectmen and/or EMD
- Town Website
- Radio Station

- Mailing for those that are not connected to the internet

Recommend having a Covid-19 section on the town website for public comment and recommendations regarding the town's response thus far.

Recommend creating a survey monkey to send out to businesses and to also post link on social media/website to invite individuals to take part in survey to share their specific experiences and the impact the pandemic has had, along with what assistance they may need to recover.

The sooner we identify the town's verified unmet recovery needs such as food, health and medical needs, rent and mortgages, utilities and banking assistance, mental health, crisis counseling, the sooner we can complete an Impact Assessment and then, as a town, advocate for resources and funding at the local, state and federal level.

6. Record keeping/Timeline of Events – Memorializing this entire pandemic and the Community's response is essential. **Ask that each department that has any role in managing the pandemic to put together a chronology of actions taken thus far in response to the emergency and continue to maintain document until such time as they no longer have any emergency response needed.**

**Schedule next meeting: 6.30.20 at 7:00pm Kibbe Fuller**

**Committee Members:**

**Chris Boucher**

**Anne Cournoyer**

**Jeff Golden**

**Jeff Lipton**

**Dave Marti**

**Allison Maynard**

**Paul Salva**

**Bill Shapiro**

**Glen Reynolds (Liaison)**

**Selectman Tim Keeney (Liaison)**