

# **Somers Long Term Recovery Committee** **(LTRC)**

Meeting Minutes

9.8.20

Kibbe Fuller School

7:00pm

Present: Allison Maynard, Jeff Golden, Jeff Marti, Paul Salva, Tim Keeney, Bill Shapiro and Anne Cournoyer

1. Discuss further things that were done well and areas for improvement in response to the pandemic -**It was agreed that many of the town offices contributed greatly in response to needs of the community brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, things were done in silos and done individually. Recommended more of a coordinated effort. Some of the good things that were done included issuing PPE, providing additional meals on wheels, transportation to Dr. appts., increased energy assistance.**

**The committee felt that specific direction from the top town and emergency management to the directors would be helpful to set expectations and clear direction during crisis. Having regular table top drills is highly recommended. Require monthly reports to indicate what has been accomplished. This helps not only with accountability, but it assists with quantifying where the unmet needs are and what has been done to address them. Aids also when asking for both public and private assistance. It was also suggested that the town engage with the public 1x a week or more as warranted during an active crisis.**

**As stated in previous meetings, the ability to reach out to all members of the community, both individuals and businesses, in real time, is vital. The town currently does not have a way to do that other than by way of a mass mailing. In addition, working with the Economic**

**Development folks to get an updated business directory and create a way to keep it updated is another vital component.**

- 2. Discuss findings from surrounding town's emergency notification systems. Captain Jeff Golden and Trooper Mike Hevey researched what surrounding towns were using for emergency notification. While the state police using the reverse 911, the majority of the towns seems to use the Everbridge system. Other systems used were Code Red and Respond, Connect Ed, and eMessenger. Further discussion was had related to the glaring need of a better communication and messaging system and process to ensure we are speaking with one voice, that the information is timely and comprehensive for both routine and emergent issues.**
- 3. Review outline of final report – Outline was discussed and will begin to fill in the associated information. It does appear however, that Somers may be ahead of other towns as it relates to the LTRC. The regional agencies with oversight of this process are just getting to the point of discussing visiting with the individual towns to provide further direction. It is not recommended that we move too far along in the process before meeting again with them.**
- 4. Miscellaneous – Selectman Keeney Director Maynard also added the need to incorporate things such as:**
  - Planning and Zoning**
  - Conservation and Development**
  - Resilience and Sustainability**
  - Affordable Housing**
  - Addressing Social (socioeconomic) and Racial concerns.**
  - Getting an accreditation type process through CCM's SustainableCT. The majority of the towns have already done this**

Next meeting: September 29, 2020