



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

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Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

5:30 pm

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

- 1) Business Recovery
 - a. Temporary Outdoor Dining for Restaurants
 - b. Oral Report from Main Street Partnership
 - c. Oral Report from Chamber of Commerce
 - d. Oral Report from Business Resource Librarian
 - e. Outreach to Stakeholders
 - f. Other
- 2) 2019-2020 Work Plan Updates
- 3) Minutes June 24, 2020

Adjournment

Town of Simsbury Long Term Recovery Plan Update – Business Outreach

- To date, we have reached out and had interactions with several but not all of the following organizations

Non-Profit Organizations

Foodshare
Gifts of Love

Social Service agencies

Department of Social Services (DSS)

Faith based community

Methodist Church
St. Catherine's
St. Mary's
Jewish Synagogue
First Church of Christ (United Church of Christ)
St. Albans Episcopal Church
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Sheperd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Simsbury Assembly of God

Educational institutions

Ethel Walker
Westminster
Masters School

- With the non-profits, they are holding their own in challenging circumstances. The need for their services have never been greater, putting a strain on their resources. Yet, through the generous donations from the community, have been able to meet the increased demands.
 - DSS use to serve 80 households every 4 weeks is now serving 120-140 every 3 weeks.
 - Foodshare Mobile Van at First Church has been serving over 100 people every 2 weeks consistently over the past few months.
 - Gifts of Love provides 250 backpacks for food insecure school children in the area, and will continue through the summer.
- Senior isolation and loneliness is a concern as they are not able to be indoors to socialize with friends. Looking to open the Senior Center but only of can do so safely.
- The Simsbury Farm is open and producing fresh produce to a number of agencies.

- All are seeing increased costs of doing business to operate in the new Covid world (i.e. PPE, plexiglass for workers)
- With Churches, they also seem to be holding their own. All have had to adjust to online services to provide Sunday services. Members are anxious to re-open but only if can be done safely.
- Similar issues with Seniors, as they miss the socialization that Church provides. It has been hard on the Youth as its been difficult to provide programming for them.
- Financially, some have applied for and received government loans. As long as pledges continue to roll in, they should be OK.
- They have been able to continue to provide social services to the community through out as Volunteer members have stepped up to help out where needed.
- With the Private Schools, they appreciate the fact that the Town is reaching out to them.
- While there are still a lot of unknowns, they plan to reopen as normal as possible in the Fall. Enrollments have been steady, with demand being high for Private schools in general as perceived to be a safer environment and CT in general is seen as a safe place.
- They could use help in two (2) areas, one being access to more Testing as they plan to test when students arrive and frequently throughout the year. The other area is access to PPE. As there a way the Town can leverage their purchasing power to secure more at better pricing versus each doing it on their own?
- Financially, have been able to secure help through government programs to retain operations staff and teachers.

SIMSBURY FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED



PAPER & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

- LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- HAND SOAPS & SANITIZERS
 - HYGIENE ITEMS
- TOILET PAPER & PAPER TOWELS
 - MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS
- BABY PRODUCTS (DIAPERS SIZE 3,4 & 5, FOOD & WIPES)

Donations of cash, check & gift cards are always welcome

*DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT:
ENO MEMORIAL HALL
754 HOPMEADOW STREET
(DONATION CART AT FRONT OF BUILDING)*

*Contact Simsbury Community & Social Services with
any questions: 860-658-3283 or
rioveland@simsbury-ct.gov*

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS:

- PASTA & SAUCE
- TUNA/CANNED CHICKEN
- DRY CEREAL & OATMEAL
- PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
 - CANNED SOUPS
- CANNED MEALS SUCH AS BEEF STEW OR CHEF-BOY-AR-DEE
 - CANNED BEANS
- RICE & OTHER GRAINS
- CRACKERS & SNACKS
- COFFEE, TEA & JUICE
- CANNED FRUIT





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Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 5:30pm
Virtual Meeting Broadcast Live via SCTV

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Crowther at 5:30pm. Commission members Bob Crowther, Peter Van Loon, Ron Jodice, Charmaine Seavy and Tom Earl were present. Ex officio members Maria Capriola, Town Manager, Bill Rice (Planning Commission) and Jackie Battos (Board of Selectmen), were also present. Staff members in attendance included Mike Glidden, Director of Planning and Community Development, Andrew 'Sherm' Sherman, Business Resource Center Coordinator and Thomas Fitzgerald, Management Specialist. Guest Morgan Hilyard (Chamber of Commerce) was also present.

1) Development Update

Mr. Glidden led the group through a presentation on development happening in Town. Some items discussed were various residential developments as well as an independent living facility. Mr. Glidden also provided a comparison of March through May permit activity for both 2019 and 2020 to show the group the year to year comparisons. Even during the COVID global pandemic building permit activity has remained steady. Finally Mr. Glidden shared the updated preliminary FEMA Flood maps and noted that these will affect more people this year due to elevation and floodplain limits changing.

2) Business Recovery

a) Temporary Outdoor Dining for Restaurants

Mr. Glidden gave an update to the Commission on outdoor dining in Town. He encouraged the public to visit the locations that are open to outdoor dining but to please adhere to the guidelines.

b) Oral Report from Main Street Partnership

Ms. Nielsen was not present at the meeting but sent notes to Town Manager Maria Capriola to be read. The Main Street Partnership is working with the business community to help with any needs they may have. They are also working to assist a new business with opening and an existing business on a façade update.

c) Oral Report from Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Hilyard reported that businesses in town are eager to reopen but has heard that customers are still typically apprehensive to indoor shopping/activities. Ms. Hilyard noted that there is an incredible local collaboration between businesses in Town to help each other, and is hopeful that this continues even after COVID is no longer present and times return to normal. Ms. Hilyard noted that there are significant expenses involved with reopening one's business and that while all businesses are hurting; depending on the industry of the business the effect of the pandemic is felt on a varying scale. It was also stated that smaller businesses are having trouble with employees

not wanting to return to work. Ms. Hilyard stated she hasn't heard too many complaints about the business loan program.

d) Oral Report from Business Resource Librarian

Mr. Sherman reported on what he and the Library have been doing during the shutdown. Mr. Sherman stated he has seen a reduction in inquiries since the initial pandemic uptick occurred, and sees this as a positive for hopefully slowly returning to normalcy. He also informed the group that smaller lenders have been more helpful for the business loan program over larger banks for many of the small businesses in Town. He went on to say why he believes this to be true. Mr. Sherman has seen a small amount of requests for job/resume help and expects this to pick up once places are able to open up again and start to hire back their workforces.

Mr. Van Loon discussed his research regarding Co-Working spaces. Mr. Crowther and Mr. Van Loon asked about Co-Working spaces potentially being desired due to people being tired of working at home but offices still not opening. Ms. Hilyard informed the group that at a previous stop in her career she had experience with Co-Working spaces and would be happy to assist; Mr. Van Loon and Ms. Hilyard will connect to discuss.

e) CCM Request for Town Response Plan

A meeting about a possible Long Term Recovery Committee was held. It was determined that a separate committee is not needed due to staff and other boards and commissions already working on what the Long Term Recovery Committee would be tasked with.

Mr. Crowther is working on a spreadsheet of contacts for businesses, non-profits, education institutions, religious institutions, etc. to get their key contacts and see how their recovery efforts are going. Other Commission members offered to assist.

3) Minutes

a) May 20, 2020

Mr. Jodice made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Van Loon seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Fitzgerald,
Management Specialist