

MINUTES
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 4th, 2021 —10:00 A.M.
Via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Faiella, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

In Attendance: Mr. Faiella – Chairman, Amber Shaw - Clerk, Courtney Burks - Senior Center Director, Cathy Wininger – Fire Department, Tim Kellogg- Library Director, Jill Brainerd – Facilities.

GENERAL COVID-19 UPDATE

Mr. Faiella Gave the Following Updates on COVID-19:

There are 512 cumulative cases among Westbrook residents since the pandemic began. Our average daily case rate per 100,000 population keeps decreasing. The decrease is also reflected in the state of CT's numbers as well.

Infection Activity is Westbrook for the past week: 1 case reported; for the past two weeks: 5 cases reported. Infection in the community is low, especially compared to other times in the pandemic. For example, in December/January Westbrook had about 40 cases per week.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update:

The Governor announced yesterday (5/3/21) that Connecticut is the first state in the nation to reach 50% of adults 18+ to be fully vaccinated. We have a small population but we are the third or fourth densest state in the country, so getting 50% of adults 18+ vaccinated is a great accomplishment.

In Westbrook specifically, as well as the surrounding towns, the vaccination rates are going quite well. The Connecticut vaccination rate map- on the State website- shows lower Middlesex County has some of the best rates in the state.

There continues to be plenty of vaccine appointments available in the state right now. Mr. Faiella noted the many openings at Middlesex Health in Westbrook, as well as Walgreens in Westbrook.

Mr. Faiella reported on the FDA authorization of the Pfizer vaccine for the 12–15-year-old age group. Guidance from the CT DPH is expected soon. Mr. Faiella will arrange a press release for this update.

Overview of Covid-19 Guidelines for Public Meetings:

Mr. Faiella explained public meetings are allowed to be held in-person. It is the decision of the specific committee or department on whether they want to hold meetings in-person or not. Mr. Faiella declared meeting attendees should still follow social distancing guidelines and wear masks.

CT Easing Business Restrictions as of May 1st:

- Restaurants are allowed to operate until midnight, as before they were only allowed to stay open until 11 PM.
- Bars can now serve alcohol without serving food.
- No table size limit. Before it was 8 people per table and now there is no limit.

CT Easing Restrictions on May 19th:

Almost all business restrictions will end, with the exception of indoor masking. DPH will be issuing guidance for indoor and large outdoor events.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE TOWN HALL'S COVID-19 POLICY/PROTOCOL

Before the last regular meeting on April 13th, Mr. Faiella sent out two drafts of these documents: one for the Town Hall as a whole and one for specific departments. At this time, there is nothing official yet. Mr. Faiella welcomed thoughts on the two documents; also noting these documents can be subject to change when the Committee deems necessary. Mr. Faiella noted some sections of these documents will need to be finalized with Mr. Bishop, First Selectman and the Finance Department as well. (Such as Sick Leave).

Discussion followed.

Mr. Faiella made a motion to approve the drafted documents and bring them to the First Selectman and Finance Department for finalizing. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing new to report.

ADJOURN

Mr. Faiella made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 AM. Mr. Kellogg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Shaw, Clerk