

Worksite Safety and Health Committee
September 3, 2020

Present: Assistant to Selectmen Maria Lucarelli, Director of Health and Emergency Management Director Lisa Fasulo, Fire Marshal John Planas, Park and Recreation Director Mary Ellen Barnes, Director of Facilities Leigh Rankin, and Fire Chief Aron Schumacher.

Lisa Fasulo called the meeting to order at 7:47 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion was made by Mary Ellen Barnes to approve the agenda. Lisa Fasulo seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion was made by Maria Lucarelli to approve the June 4, 2020 minutes. Lisa Fasulo seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Ellen Barnes reported that the Ivoryton library is open but with limited hours and by appointment only. Essex Library is not actively open now because the Essex Library Association is dictated by other guidelines. There was discussion that due to the Essex library being closed, students do not have any place to study or a place to connect to the Internet.

Mary Ellen also reported that Park and Recreation is looking at other options for this year's October 17th Pumpkin Festival. They are looking at safe options. It may be a concert because they can do that safely. It is the 20th anniversary of the pumpkin festival. Mary Ellen reported that she reached out to the Ivoryton Playhouse Director Jacqueline Hubbard to discuss how to keep people safe on the Ivoryton Green. They will be able to utilize the playhouse property and their patios, which will help people maintain social distance. The Board of Trade is going to do the scarecrows on the poles.

Fire Chief Aron Schumacher reported that the Essex Fire Department is also looking at doing something in lieu of their Halloween Parade. They realize that it will need to be significantly different. Possibly a drive through event at the Fire House or driving the fire trucks through neighborhoods. The Fire Department wants to do something but doing something safe. It will not be a traditional Halloween parade.

There was discussion of possibly placing the carved pumpkins at the Fire House and doing a drive through. There were concerns of whether Bushy Hill would be organizing the carving of the pumpkins. Mary Ellen reported she acquires approximately 250 pumpkins that are then given away, carved, and then collected back so people can view the carvings.

Mary Ellen reported she still has the blow ups and lights which can be used. The park will be lit up for Halloween night.

Mary Ellen reported that Social Services is still working on energy assistance applications by appointment and by mail only and that renter rebates are still going on as well.

Lisa Fasulo reported she is working with the Connecticut River Area Health District in coordinating an Essex drive through flu clinic. She is working on dates and times and it is anticipated to be scheduled late September or early October. The Visiting Nurses are also looking for a place to give flu vaccines. First Selectman Norman

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Needleman reported he is allowing the Town Hall Auditorium only be used for safety related events such as flu clinics and blood drives.

Lisa Fasulo reported that during Storm Isaias the Essex Fire Department did an awesome job. She reported that parts of the Town had no power for 10 days. Grab and Go Meals were available at the John Winthrop Middle School, a charging station was set up, potable water was made available. Everyone did the best we could. Big thank you to the Essex Fire Department who allowed residents to shower in their building. Residents really appreciated that. Lisa reported that the Essex Preparedness Guidebook is being re-written.

John Planas reported that while at a training session at Essex Meadows, a representative from Essex Meadows reported they have a large generator that they would like to donate to the Essex Fire Department.

John also reported on the Storm Isaias and stated there was significant damage to some homes in Town. The Emergency Operation Center was open, and our new Emergency Management Director Lisa Fasulo did an amazing job, and everyone worked well together.

John reminded everyone that hurricane season is upon us and there are three more storms out in the Atlantic now. John reported that the Town is obtaining a new system that tracks severe weather in live time. It will allow the Town to see exactly where a storm is tracking, you can view a live radar screen, and accurate temperature.

John also reported that he has scheduled several inspections that are going until the end of October.

Leigh Rankin reported that opening the fire house for showers to the residents during Storm Isais was great

Leigh reported that both John Winthrop Middle School and Valley Regional High School opened on Tuesday.

Lisa reported that the schools are required to submit their safety plans by September 30th to Region 2. The pandemic section needs to be rewritten. Lisa reported she will have that completed in time.

Maria Lucarelli reported that a Town employee fell through a floor while doing an inspection on a newly constructed building. The employee is recovering and is already back at work.

Maria also reported the Town purchased Dude solutions, which is a Public Works software program to help simplify managing the maintenance, operations, and reporting of the Public Works Department. This software will also help all Town departments be more efficient and will help to plan, track, and report any safety related Town issue.

The Town also purchased new security cameras that will be installed at the Essex Town Hall, the Public Works gate, the Animal Control Office, and the Transfer Station.

Chief Schumacher was wondering if VNA should still come to the Fire Department to give FD staff their annual flu shots, or whether he should use the drive through for members? Lisa reported she would investigate the best option.

Motion was made by Mary Ellen Barnes to adjourn at 8:30 a.m. Lisa Fasulo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Maria Lucarelli