

June 25, 2020

EDC activities - Planner's Report

: The 2020 Farmers' Market season kicked off with a 'tent-side pickup' approach coupled with an on-line purchasing platform. The first two weekends have gone smoothly in the field, while the Market Master and Committee Chair tackle glitches with the on-line purchase program.

: Staff continues to monitor and be involved with the Capriland's Probate Court matter. Probate hearings and court proceedings continue to unfold. The architectural and engineering consultants have completed the conditions assessment report and reimbursement has been sought with the State Historic Preservation Office. The deadline for RFP responses was May 11. Only one response had been submitted and it was not deemed adequate. The Estate will pursue the sale of the property on the open market.

: Staff and the PZC Subcommittee appointed to prepare the revision to the Plan of Conservation and Development have completed the draft text. All of the required notices and referrals have occurred and public hearings began on May 26. The hearing is expected to close on June 22.

: Up to early March, Staff continued to work with the Coventry Village Partners and the further development of the organization. However, the COVID -19 pandemic has put a pause on the bi-weekly meetings that were being held with the participants. The Daffodil Daze event planned for April 25 was cancelled. The Arts on Main event has been cancelled, but there may be a way to host a remote event with the Coventry Arts Guild. This has been proposed to the Guild Chair.

: Work continues with AdvanceCT (formerly CERC) and the member towns to prepare the Regional Economic Development study. The first draft has been reviewed and commented on by the town staff in the 4 towns. The comments have been submitted to the consultant who will review and revise the draft accordingly. A public meeting using the Zoom interface to roll out the Plan will occur to share the results, likely in July.

: Staff continues to serve on the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Economic Development Committee. It has been very challenging as of late for the Chamber, due to the pandemic.

Fundraising events, regular Chamber monthly events and standard business support have not been able to occur.

: Staff has been monitoring and sharing information from a variety of sources with the businesses in the community so that they can be aware of programs and resources to help support them during this difficult time.

: Staff has been working with the town restaurants to assist in enabling their re-opening that occurred for some on May 20.

: Cumberland Farms construction activities have resumed on site and an opening is expected in late July.