

July 23, 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 Markets have gone smoothly in the field, while the Market Master and Committee Chair tackle glitches with the on-line purchase program. Vendors and customers continue to express strong wishes for an in-field Market, which is not a viable option at this time.

: 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 is pursuing 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. The Plan was June 22 with an effective date of July 1.

: 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 also been cancelled.

: 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 and revised the draft accordingly. A public meeting using the Zoom interface is being planned to roll out the Plan to share the Plan.

: 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.

: Cumberland Farms construction activities resumed on site and a temporary CO was issued. The formal opening is expected in late July.

: Planning Staff has been appointed as the Town Long Term Recovery Coordinator. The duties and responsibilities are being reviewed and plans are being developed on how to serve in that capacity as well as interact with the State and Regional entities.

: Staff has been made aware of interest in the former medical office of Dr. Keenan for a local financial planning businesses as an adaptive re-use, which involves a simple permitting process to accommodate.

: Staff discussed permitting procedures for a local farm stand operation to adaptively re-use the former Muldoon's site on Boston Turnpike for a similar use. The new user will be pursuing the permit approvals and ultimately lease the site.