

August 20, 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. Vendors and customers continue to express strong wishes for an in-field Market, which is not a viable option at this time. Planning Staff, Market Staff, Market Committee and Market Volunteers met with the vendors to discuss next steps for the balance of the season including: impulse purchases in field, improved marketing by vendors, added vendors in field.

: Staff continues to monitor and be involved with the Capriland's Probate Court matter. Probate hearings and court proceedings continue to unfold. The Estate is pursuing the sale of the property on the open market. General inquiries continue to be received in the office on the status of the project.

: 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. Staff will be pursuing a Zoom meeting with interested businesses to discuss how the Town can assist with recovery.

: Work continues with AdvanceCT (formerly CERC) and the member towns to prepare the Regional Economic Development study. The first draft has been completed and shared with stakeholders in each town. Comments are being collected and shared with the consultant. A public meeting using the Zoom interface has been scheduled for September 16 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. Regular monthly meetings continue to occur, but with limited activities and events.

: 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.

: A Certificate of Occupancy was issued for the Cumberland Farms. The traffic and access appears to be going smoothly with the new opening.

: 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. Hartford Health Care as confirmed this.

: 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.

: Staff is aware that the former Knights of Columbus building on Snake Hill Road was recently purchased. The last known interested party was proposing a residential adaptive re-use.