

September 24, 2020

EDC activities - Planner's Report

: The 2020 Farmers' Market season continues with a 'tent-side pickup' approach coupled with an on-line purchasing platform. The Market continues to support impulse purchases in field, improved marketing by vendors, as well as customer shopping at the Market without purchasing anything from the online platform.

: Staff continues to monitor and be involved with the Capriland's Probate Court matter. Probate hearings and court proceedings continue to unfold. The property is on the open real estate market and an offer has been made for purchase to establish a farm.

: 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 has been completed with AdvanceCT (formerly CERC) and the member towns to prepare the Regional Economic Development study. A public meeting using the Zoom interface was held on September 16 to share the Plan. Efforts are underway to establish a steering committee between the 4 towns to begin work to implement 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.

: 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. A meeting with the regional coordinators has been set for September 24 with CRCOG.

: Staff continues to reach out to Hartford Health Care to inquire on their plans to maintain a medical office presence in Coventry.

: Staff is aware of interest in the former Sanborn's Garage to re-establish a motor vehicle repair business. Staff has spoken to the interested party to discuss next steps.

: Staff has met with the Christmas in the Village event coordinators to explore how a safe and appropriate event can be held.