

MEETING NOTES: CRTF HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE, JULY 9, 2020

Kathie Lynch, Ann Birner, Bianca Montiero, and Kristin Shaw joined the call.

SUBCOMMITTEE SETUP

Name is “Health Subcommittee”. Meetings are weekly on Tuesday mornings 11 AM – 12 noon, beginning July 21 (this meeting and its virtual followup preempt July 14th). Frequency and timing may be subject to change. **Kathie** will control the ZOOM meetings, with invitations to Ann, Bianca, Kristin, Jessica Griffin (to post on city website), Kim McNamara, James Petersen, Mark Stebbins, and Karen Conard. Stephanie Seacord, Public Information Officer will provide assistance with posting to the CRTF webpage and outreach. Meetings to be recorded by Kathie and sent to Jessica for posting.

DATA PRESENTATION TO CRTF

Kathie noted the Portsmouth Herald posts data regularly. Other data sources favored by members include CDC, state websites e.g. NH.gov; academic websites such as Johns Hopkins and U Washington; The COVID Tracking Project (by The Atlantic); and the New York Times, which utilizes CDC data displayed in various graphic formats. Task Force chair Jim Petersen has expressed interest in noteworthy trends across the country, and the subcommittee decided the focal area should include of course the Seacoast but all of NH, Eastern MA, and ME as well.

Bianca will send Ann her favored websites (DONE and listed above), noting the data she judges to be key.

Ann will draft a report on a weekly basis and provide to the subcommittee for review prior to each Tuesday meeting. After discussion, the report will be revised as needed and forwarded to the Task Force prior to the weekly (Wednesday) calls.

MASKS

Lengthy discussion included benefits and proper use of masks, current state regulations and recommendations, efforts already undertaken and planned by City, enforced restrictions elsewhere (notably Nashua and Provincetown), court challenges to these restrictions, governance of Pease in the context of concerns re: July 11th rally, and anecdotes and impressions regarding mask utilization or lack thereof in Portsmouth proper. In summary:

- Encouragement and positive reinforcement are more likely to be successful than restrictions. The subcommittee supports educational efforts by the city as described by Kristin and encourages wide and rapid implementation. **Kirstin** will send subcommittee members sample of the signage that will be laminated and posted around town.
- The subcommittee supports requiring masks in zones likely to present the highest risk. Age limits and exceptions TBD. Zones identified include the Portsmouth business district and especially the planned “Pop Up Portsmouth” (see next agenda item).

- Masks are already required by Governor’s Economic Reopening Task Force Guidance (see at <https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/>) for restaurant servers and retail staff but non-compliance has been observed in the city. CRTF leadership suggested on the July 8th call that Task Force members report these violations if observed. To elaborate on that point, reports may be submitted to health@cityofportsmouth.com or at (603)610-7238.
- Portsmouth PD has instructed all officers to wear masks while on duty. Subcommittee members have noted cases of non-compliance in this area as, including on the street (in cars, we are not concerned). Kristin will follow up with the chief.

POP-UP PORTSMOUTH

Began with a discussion and reminders regarding layout, spacing requirements, hours, attendee limits, etc. as well as concerns.

The subcommittee recommends the following:

- Require advanced booking for entry to events (not necessarily for general admission to dine, etc) in order to ensure staggered arrivals to these gatherings, as already under discussion by the Pop-Up Subcommittee.
- Entrances and exits to be distinct from one another to support foot traffic in one direction.
- Masks should be required for everyone (not just staff) unless eating or drinking, with reasonable lower age limits and medical exclusions.
- Eating and drinking will not be allowed in the event area.
- Patrons must be seated while eating and drinking throughout the Pop-Up, whether in the restaurant and Beer Garden areas.