

CCC 111 / MICROSOFT "TEAMS"  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

April 29, 2024

PRESENT Don Bell, Chair, Councillors Angie Parkinson and John Morrison

ABSENT

ALSO Connor Martin, Mayor  
PRESENT Councillor Travis Simpson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 23, 2024

MOTION By Travis Simpson  
seconded by John Morrison

to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024 Community Engagement Committee meeting.

Motion carried 3/0

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Informal Engagement Opportunities with Town Administration

Chair Bell summarized previous meetings of the Committee, noting a number of ideas on how to better engage the community and making members of the Council more identifiable at Town events. The Committee agreed to move forward with acquiring shirts for upcoming summer events.

Mayor Martin stated that as Mayor, there are number of invitations sent to his office to attend events throughout Town. When possible, the Mayor often will extend these invitations to the Council to also participate. As majority of these events occur during regular business hours, members of the Council are less likely to be able to attend given personal work responsibilities.

In an effort to better connect directly with the Town, the Mayor plans to continue efforts to identify and schedule visits at local businesses to show support and provide exposure. Plans are in place to host a “lunch with the Mayor” event at Augie and Ray’s (314 Main Street) on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Residents have reached out to the Mayor to schedule meet and greets with the public in the evenings or on the weekends.

In addition, the Mayor’s office is considering scheduling virtual “office hours” where the Mayor will make himself available for the public to log on and ask questions of the Administration in real time. In support of the idea and the current “Ask the Mayor” platform, the Committee discussed having the Council host a similar initiative to provide an alternative resource for residents with concerns or questions.

#### Establishment of Tentative Engagement Schedule

Currently the Council has scheduled a “Coffee with the Council” event, scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup> at the East Hartford Senior Center (15 Millbrook Drive).

The Committee discussed opportunities to engage with the public more by attending various sports events at the high school or Little League games over the summer. The committee proposed assembling a shared schedule of games and extra-curricular events for Town Officials to attend together when possible.

The Chair proposed an early June date for a walk across East Hartford for the public to attend, with a social opportunity along the route for additional engagement.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION        By John Morrison  
                     seconded by Angie Parkinson

to **adjourn** at 8:04 p.m.

Motion carried

C: Town Council  
Connor Martin, Mayor