

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKING GROUP**  
Friday, 03/05/2021 - 8 a.m., via Zoom Meeting

**Attendance:** Council President Jack O'Brien, Council Vice President Noni West, Councilmen Ben Bell, Larry Browne, and Joe Frederick, Mayor Ron Strouse, and Borough Manager John Davis.

The **Minutes** from the February 19, 2021 meeting were approved with the amendment that Councilperson Larry Browne be added as having had attended the meeting. (Bell-West)

**Covid Public Communication/Messaging.** This is essential to our mission statement. The purpose of our website is not to originate information, but to filter official information down to present quick data points for the Borough audience. Ben will work on links we can use.

Right now, people are really looking for vaccine data: where to sign up, where to go, how to get an appointment. The problem is the lack of the vaccine.

Should get out a message that even though some are vaccinated, people shouldn't prematurely behave as though there is no more risk. We should remain proactive with the mask wearing, but also need messaging about vaccines coming, but now is not time to let up your guard.

Messaging, communication, and outreach is essential to our mission statement and this should always be on the agenda.

**Street Closures.** John emailed some restaurants and they seemed appreciative of the message. The next task is to get out a start date. Because this will be every week, there will be less landscaping/aesthetics. When we scale back to a more reasonable schedule for the future, we can concentrate on making it more attractive. A couple of restaurants that use curbside pick-up spots have already inquired about putting their tables back out, and they were told that they could.

There was discussion regarding the use of barriers, potential liability, the need for a future permanent ordinance for dining that would require insurance, as well as the need for restaurants to pay for the privilege of using a metered parking space under normal circumstances. Safety is a big component of all of this.

How can this group be helpful to the Public Safety Committee when the emergency ends, without being repetitive or redundant? Perhaps could have a conversation with restaurants in advance rather than being reactive. When should this be? Previously discussed certain objective triggers like seating capacity going to 75% or 100%, the percentage of dedicated parking spots, etc. Right now, our state of emergency is tied to the Governor's, so ours ends when the state ends. We have a buffer period in ours such that when it ends, there will be "X" days to shut things down and go back into compliance. John will supply our declaration to attendees. If restaurant capacity is 75%, do we still want the curbside pickup spaces, or do we believe the only time they'll go away is when the emergency is over, or, is there some place in between? The curbside spots, for three months,

cost the Borough around \$30,000. Noni will ask Caroline to quantify this aspect and then discuss it in Finance. We should add to the agenda to do a survey among restaurant operators - do they want curbside when reach 75% seating? We need to know whether we're giving them something they don't want while also losing revenue.

**Old/New Business.**

The **Mobilytics** link John sent out was discussed. It is a lot of research done by DVRPC, which shows where people are traveling to. Pre-COVID activities in Doylestown for restaurants shows that Slate Blu is in the top five restaurant visitation pre-covid. Unfortunately, there's no during COVID data available. John will find out if we can manipulate or do more with this. John will supply the email that accompanied the info to attendees of this meeting. Ben provided two links for this: <https://www.buxtonco.com> and <https://www.buxtonco.com/platform/public-sector>.

**Nonprofits.** We have been focusing on the restaurants and some on retail, but we do need to talk about nonprofits: the Michener, Civil War Round Table, the Historical Society, etc. Would want Ron here as he brings the appropriate perspective. Perhaps could dedicate one of these meetings to that, maybe in April or May

**Next meeting.** Continue messaging/communication discussion, how to end the emergency, continue street closure discussion (should have to get schedule in place by next meeting), talk about survey – a reach out to the restaurants about sidewalk dining, and maybe touch on nonprofits as a prospective for a meeting that will follow.

Meeting adjourned 9:03 a.m. (Browne-Bell)

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Ament  
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Doylestown Borough