

City of Keene, New Hampshire

George S. Hansel, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Keene Holds COVID-19 Response Planning Sessions With Community Partners MONADNOCK AREA ORGANIZATIONS INCREASE LEVELS OF COLLABORATION IN PREPARATION FOR COVID-19

KEENE – The City of Keene has initiated several emergency management planning sessions with various community partners. On Monday afternoon, the Mayor, City Manager, and the City’s Emergency Management Team held discussions to coordinate the local emergency response to the COVID-19 virus. Participants included:

- A team from Keene State College led by President Melinda Treadwell
- Public health officials from The Cheshire Medical Center
- Phil Suter from the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce
- Cheshire County Administrator Chris Coates
- County Sherriff Eli Rivera
- Michael Branley and Pamela Fortner from the Town of Swanzey
- Mary Grainger from Antioch University
- Representatives from River Valley Community College
- Rob Malay from SAU 29

“Effective emergency planning includes many different partners, from the federal government down to the local level.” said Kurt Blomquist, City of Keene Public Works/Emergency Management Director. “Today’s meeting is the latest example of ongoing local discussions to ensure the delivery of vital services to our residents under various circumstances,” he added.

On Tuesday, the City is also hosting a planning session to address the needs of Keene’s homeless population. 100 Nights Shelter, Southwestern Community Services, and various faith groups are invited to participate.

In addition, at 8AM on Tuesday, Mayor George Hansel and the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce are hosting a virtual meeting with downtown business owners to share the latest information and recommendations from the State of New Hampshire and the CDC. Those interested in participating can email the Mayor’s office at mayor@ci.keene.nh.us to receive an invite and access code.

“I’m encouraged with the amount of collaboration I’m seeing in the face of these challenging circumstances,” Mayor George Hansel said. “Keene is already a very collaborative community, and when we come out on the other side of this, those bonds will be even stronger,” he added.

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