MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

East Hampton COVID-19 Response Update April 8, 2020

East Hampton, CT, April 8, 2020 – According to the latest information from the Chatham Health District, the Town of East Hampton has had five confirmed cases of COVID-19 disease. One case previously reported in East Hampton was actually a resident of another community. Residents are reminded that it is likely that there are other cases in the community and in the surrounding communities that are not showing symptoms or are experiencing mild symptoms. People should continue to take steps to protect themselves and others by following the recommended procedures including the use of cloth masks over their mouth and nose while in public.

The Chatham Health District and the Town remind residents to “Stay Safe, Stay Home” and be diligent as they continue to avoid contact with others. Wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds especially after being in public, sneezing, coughing or nose blowing. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer. To further prevent the spread of COVID-19, please use a face mask, always maintain “social distancing” of at least 6 feet and stay away from groups of people. Protect others by staying home if you are sick, covering coughs and sneezes and regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. For the most current updates and recommendations, visit ct.gov/coronavirus. For general questions, call 2-1-1.

The Town’s operations continue to be impacted by the pandemic. Offices and facilities remain closed to the public with limited ability to meet by appointment as necessary. However, please be advised that all Town offices will be closed on Friday, April 10 in for the holiday. Additionally, the Town Hall offices will close at 12:30 on Thursday, April 9.

The Town Council and Staff continue to implement the various Executive Orders issued by Governor Lamont and are currently preparing for the Town Council to consider options related to providing relief for residents and businesses as new utility and tax bills are produced during the emergency. At its regular meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 via Zoom, the Council will consider implementation of a low interest rate program for payers that are unable to pay their bills. The three percent (3%) annual interest rate (0.25% per month or portion of a month) would apply for the first 90 days a bill is late. Information on the specifics of the program will be in the agenda packet for the meeting, which will be posted to the Town
website Thursday, April 9. The FY 20/21 budget process will also be under way soon as the revised budget will be made available to the public and sent to the Board of Finance by Monday, April 13.

Transition to the new Town Hall is proceeding, however, the timeline has been delayed. As of today, the Town’s operations will move May 7 through May 9. Town operations would begin out of the new location on May 11. During this time, please expect delays in response to phone calls, emails and other messages as staff offices will be in transition. No Grand Opening Ceremony is planned at this time but once it is safer to be together as a community, we will hold an event.

Sadly, the Old Home Days committee announced yesterday that it has decided to cancel this year’s event. A notice issued by the Committee reads, in part, “It is with great regret and a heavy heart that the East Hampton Old Home Days Committee announces that the 2020 East Hampton Old Home Days Glorious Celebration is cancelled. This announcement is especially painful given this year’s theme, ‘Paint the Town Red!’, in honor of one of our founding, most respected and most beloved members, Red McKinney, who passed away late last year.” The committee intends to bring the event back on July 8 through 10, 2021 with the Paint the Town Red theme.

The next Town update is scheduled for Friday, April 10.