

TOWN OF CHESHIRE

The Bedding Plant Capital of Connecticut

Office of the Building Official

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Corona Virus Pandemic 2020 Work Effort- Building Department

The building department has continued to conduct business during the continuing Corona pandemic including taking applications through our on-line permitting software, including field inspections, which do not require entry into occupied residential single-family dwellings (RSFD). We will make exceptions for recent work of a "necessary" component such as boilers, water heaters, etc. We will authorize contractors and others requesting interior inspections of occupied RSFD, to take specific images at the direction of the inspector so that compliance may be confirmed. These images are not to be confused with pics showing general work, but need to be images captured up close so that the details of the completed work can be clearly observed, as this is to replace the live inspector being present in the room/space. When the inspection has been completed, the inspector will have the person upload the images into the permit software so that the images will be part of the permit application documents for retention.

We continue to conduct non-residential inspections on a variety of construction projects including new building construction, additions, interior renovations, demolition etc. We have been actively practicing "social distancing" to reduce to risks associated with this Pandemic. At the request of government agencies, we have reduced time spent in the office and have directed employees to work from home on most days with entry into the office only when necessary to conduct necessary business not being able to be completed at home. We have Michelle working on reviewing paper permits which remain in an "open status" to determine if the permit has expired, remains valid, or has been "Closed" if they exceed 9 years from issuance (Public Act # 17-176). Michelle continues to answer the phone and direct calls to appropriate persons/departments etc. Conrad splits time in the office conducting field inspections, working at home closing out roofing, siding, window, deck and other open permits, both old paper and on-line permits. Tony continues to conduct field inspections including a large volume of residential roof top solar system installations. He also continues to conduct most other inspections when Conrad is working from home.

Through my efforts while employed with the town, I have promoted and instituted digitizing property file records and on-line permitting software. With both of these initiatives in place, the transition to working from home has been less problematic, and persons seeking property files and information has been seamless whether we provide them from the office or from home. As we all have been thrust into this difficult time, we continue to evolve with resilience and resourcefulness to continue to offer the best customer service with safety, to both our staff and respect to the residents/persons that we serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Darin
Building Official