

Public Health Agency
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419

February 9, 2022 – Held Virtually
MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Mike Stehney, and Nancy Gorski

Connecticut Area River Health District Representatives Present:

Rebecca Drew, Ryan Grenon, Sherry Carlson, Scott Martinson

Members Absent:

Public Forum:

Meeting called to order at 7:02

Minutes:

- The committee reviewed and approved minutes from the December 8, 2021 Regular Meeting:

MOTION:

Nancy Gorski moved and Betty Dennis seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2021 regular meeting

Voting in favor: 7 voting members

Opposed:0

Abstentions: 0

The motion carried 7:0:0

First Selectman Update- Nancy Gorski reported the following:

Assure Competent Public Health Workforce

- Update on research for Health Department coverage – CRAHD is still the cheapest and most comprehensive – members reviewed the coverage by CRAHD so far – members reviewed the letter of recommendation from former Health Director Paul – members want to make sure that the future with CRAHD continues the outstanding service so far. Presentation was made at the town meeting last month. The town of Killingworth will have a representative on the CRAHD Board of Health and will get the town data to show the community activities. The community will vote on February

Director of Health Update (contractual Director)- Scott Martinson, Director of Health for the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD) reported the following:

Enforce Laws/Regulations that Protect Health & Safety

- Mask Mandates in Schools – discussion ensued about the current state of affairs and the Governor's release of the Mask mandate on February 28. Meetings are being held with local school officials and other area health districts to analyze the data and plan for next steps. Concerns about daycare and early childhood centers without masks and the current spread

rates were expressed. Concerns about removing all mitigation strategies all at once and the lack of ventilation in the winter months.

- CRAHD will be setting up vaccinations clinics for the 6 months to 5 year olds as soon as approved.
- Local HK school age vaccination rates are low and booster rates for our 12-18 year olds are very low.
- N95 masks are not recommended for adults with respiratory issues and for children, surgical masks or cloth masks are recommended for children.

Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community

- PFAS in Well Water – Investigation area has grown; those 6 homes came back below the action level. Additional testing samples have been taken and we expect results back next week. Testing further down Route 81 has been declined by 3 businesses.

Old Business:

- **Developing Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health**
 - COVID:
 - Town Case Rate - current rates are dropping we are down to 11.2% this is only based on PCR testing and does not include all the at home tests which are not reported. Killingworth has had an increase in deaths recently. Deaths usually follow the high case numbers a few weeks later.

New Business:

Assure Competent Public Health Workforce

- Is there anything that we can do to help with the town meeting on **Tuesday, February 15, at 7:00 PM at Killingworth Elementary School**? Discussion was had about who and how the vote will be taken. Community members must bring their ID to be eligible to vote.
- We have interviewed numerous health districts and candidates over the last few years as we have had transitions in staff members. We feel confident that the move to CRAHD is not only cost effective for the town, but provides us a more comprehensive level of service.

MOTION:

Mike Stehney moved and Ernest Pizzuto seconded a motion for the Killingworth Public Health Committee to support the Town of Killingworth joining CHRAD as the sole provider of .

Voting in favor: 7 Unanimous

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion carried 7:0:0.

Member Concerns:

Adjournment:

MOTION: Mike Stehney moved and Betty Dennis seconded a motion to adjourn.

Voting in favor: 7

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion carried 7:0:0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39.

The community meeting to vote on future contracting with CRAHD will be held on February 15, 2022

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Duffield

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Acting Secretary (very temporary!)