

Public Health Agency
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419

March 10, 2021
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Mike Stehney, Health Director Amy Scholz, and Assistant Health Director Paul Hutcheon.

Members Absent: Cheryl Fine and Cathy Iino

Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew called the meeting to order via the GotoMeeting app at 7:13 pm.

Minutes- The committee reviewed and approved minutes from the following meeting:

February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting:

MOTION: Ernest Pizzuto moved and Robin Duffield seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the February 10th meeting. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolini Drew, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Betty Dennis. The motion carried: 5:0:1.

First Selectman Update- There was no report because Cathy Iino had to attend another meeting.

Health Director Update -Amy Scholz reported the following:

Connecting People to Needed Health Care Services-Coronavirus (COVID-19)- Case numbers have been declining. Amy reported the following statistics:

Case rate:	26.9 per 100,000
# Residents Vaccinated (as of March 1):	1,549
Ages:65-78:	526
75+:	482

She noted that while the overall trend for cases is down, there can be some fluctuation, particularly when more than one member of a family is infected. Currently, the state is vaccinating those age 55+. Robin reported that those ages 45-54 have to wait until March 22. Natalie asked if the vaccination numbers included those vaccinated at worksites, such as hospitals or healthcare setting. Amy said that she was not aware of those vaccinated through institutions. She explained that the zip code flows to the database and the only people not included are those in long-term care.

Amy reached out to Nutmeg Pharmacy in Higganum and arranged for a special vaccination clinic for school staff last Saturday. About 200 educators attended and received the Moderna vaccine. In four weeks, the second dose will be administered through the CT River Area Health District (CRAHD) or any clinic thru VAMS. She also spoke to group and family day cares in town regarding vaccinations for staff.

Paul has been working on getting a vaccination clinic in Killingworth. He has contacted community health centers. The local pharmacy is putting in paperwork to the state to be a vaccine provider. For homebound individuals, we are seeking a provider for the Johnson & Johnson shot, which is a single dose rather than two doses. Amy said she looked at the Congregational Church as a possible site. Several members suggested St. Lawrence Church hall across the street from the Congregational church for better parking and access.

The Health Department is still getting calls on where to find vaccinations but the number of calls has diminished. Amy reported that the Governor as of March 19 is lifting capacity restrictions on restaurants, retail stores, houses of worship, office and similar buildings but still requiring masks and six foot social distancing. He is also lifting the travel restrictions requiring quarantines after out-of-state travel.

Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health- Roadside Vegetation Spraying - Robin raised issues about roadside weed spraying under guardrails and similar areas. She noted that last year there was concern about notifying residents to avoid those areas, especially with pets, for a recommended number of days. She asked when the town was planning to spray this year and when advance notice would be provided to residents.

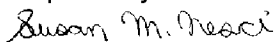
Charter Revision- The committee reviewed a draft of proposed revisions to the Public Health section of the town charter. Robin noted that with a drop from 10 to 7 members, the number of appointments needed to be changed to 2 for the first two years and 3 in the third year. Mike and Robin both suggested adding back in from the previous charter appointment of a member from town government and a member from the schools. They further stated this should be a recommendation, if feasible, and not a requirement. Sue thanked Paul for his leadership on the charter revision documents.

MOTION: Mike Stehney moved and Betty Dennis seconded a motion to approve and forward the recommended language for the Public Health Agency to the Charter Revision Commission. Voting in favor: Natalie Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed:0; Abstentions:0. The motion carried 6:0:0.

MOTION: Robin Duffield moved and Natalie Drew seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolini Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: 0. The motion carried 6:0:0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue Nesci