

Public Health Agency
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419

February 9, 2022
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew, Betty Dennis, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney, and Staff from the Connecticut River Area Health District: Scott Martinson, Director of Health, Steven Yenco, Chief Sanitarian, and Sherry Carlson, Public Health Nurse Supervisor.

Members Absent: Robin Duffield

Chair Natalie Drew called the meeting to order via the GotoMeeting app at 7:00pm.

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

February 9th Regular Meeting:

MOTION: Ernest Pizzuto moved and Mike Stehney seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the February 9th regular meeting/ Voting in favor: Natalie Drew, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney. Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Betty Dennis. The motion carried 5:0:1.

First Selectman Update- Nancy Gorski reported the following:

Assure Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce: The town has finalized and signed an agreement to join the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD). We are finally members. Nancy thanked Scott for working with the District Board to resolve some final issues. Natalie praised the unanimous support for joining CRAHD at the town meeting on February 15th.

Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community-PFAS in Well Water- The town has applied for a grant for drinking water remediation for both the town well and Killingworth Elementary School. Nancy noted that CRAHD went through similar issues with the Haddam.

Director of Health Update - Scott Martinson and staff reported the following

Developing Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health- COVID- Case are down in both the state and the health district. This is a pause in the epidemic but not an end. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is using countywide metrics based on hospitalization rather than case rates to determine public health response. Middlesex County is currently rated as low risk as is the rest of the state. Metrics are updated on Thursdays. State testing sites are winding down operations. Rates are now reported weekly rather than daily. The biggest unknown is future vaccination needs.

Mike asked if case rates and deaths include anyone who tests positive regardless of their reason for entering the hospital. Scott explained that anyone who tests positive in the hospital is counted in the rates. He added that age and comorbidities are confounding factors in deaths.

Sherry Carlson explained that masking is now optional in the school district. It is now a family decision whether a child should wear a mask in school. Children with symptoms are given two home test kits per week. Natalie asked about storage and disposal of home test kits. Sherry explained that test kits are to be kept at room temperature. Scott added that kits are to be disposed of in household trash.

Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community-- PFAS in Well Water- Steve Yenco reported that 14 home wells were tested; 13 in the third round and one in the second round. The next round of testing will be late April or early May. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is meeting the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on disposal of waste filters. Steve explained that DPH does not have a standard potability test.

Nancy added that the town is working on a drinking water application. Sodium results are not yet available for the town campus but a meeting is scheduled on the issue for Thursday. Additional testing outside the current area indicated that all the wells were under the actionable level. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and Energy (DEEP) is doing seasonal testing of wells to see if the metrics change.

Tick-borne Diseases-Natalie asked what CRAHD does in member towns to prevent tick-borne diseases. Sherry said the District website has information on personal prevention measures. Scott added that the District also uses a contractor to treat catch basins and storm drains with larvicide in member towns three times a year to reduce the risk for disease transmission. Each treatment lasts 90 days. Nancy noted that Killingworth is a watershed area and asked about the safety of treatments. Scott said the larvicide is safe.

Health Education thru Media- Sue asked if the District's health education efforts on tick-borne and other disease prevention included local media in member towns. Scott said that news releases will hit papers that cover Killingworth.

New Building- Betty asked about septic issues for a new building going up next to Dunkin Donuts. She noted that when the Comcast building next to this building was under construction restrooms were not allowed because the area was wetlands. Nancy explained that the new building is on Dunkin Donuts property and will be used to house a collection of the franchise owner.

Speed on Local Roads- Natalie asked about efforts to control speeds on local roads. Nancy said the town has received a number of complaints about excess speed on Routes 80, 81 and 148 as well as Stevenson and Roast Meat Hill Roads. Our trooper has noted that we don't have the volume of traffic to make changes.

Election of CRAHD Board Member

Nancy explained that the Public Health Agency (PHA) needs to recommend someone to Board of Selectman, who will appoint someone to represent Killingworth on CRAHD's Board. She added that the Selectmen are meeting Monday. Scott added that most towns appoint their First Selectman to CRAHD's Board. There are six meetings per year. Times and dates are on CRAHD's website. The next meeting is in April. Towns can designate an alternate if that person is not available for a meeting but the alternate cannot vote.

MOTION: Mike Stehney moved and Ernest Pizzuto seconded a motion to recommend to our Board of Selectmen that our First Selectman, Nancy Gorski, serve as the town's representative on the CRAHD Board and that PHA Chair Natalie Drew serve as alternate. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolli Drew, Betty Dennis, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed:0; Abstentions: 0. The motion carried 6:0:0.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Nesci

Sue Nesci
Secretary