

Public Health Agency  
323 Route 81  
Killingworth, CT 06419

May 11, 2022  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto (7:30pm), Michael Stehney and Staff from the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD): Sherry Carlson, Public Health Nurse Supervisor

**Members Absent:** Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, and Scott Martinson, Director of Health, CRAHD

Chair Natalie Drew called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

**First Selectman Update-** Nancy Gorski reported the following:

**Developing Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health- COVID-** COVID rates are ticking upward. Sherry Carlson added that CRAHD is still emphasizing COVID. Treatment is now recommended in the first five days after onset. The omicron variant and its subsets transmit faster. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends staying on top of vaccinations. Nancy asked the incubation period. Sherry responded 5 days but it can be as long as 10-14 days.

Sherry noted that CRAHD was number two among health departments in the state for its vaccination rate.

**Senior Health Fair-** Plans are in the works for a joint Senior Health Fair with the town of Haddam for October. The health fair will include a flu clinic as well as other health services for seniors.

**Website Update-** The town has contracted for an update of its website. This will include updating health department information and links to CRAHD's website for forms, such as temporary food permits and building-related permits that involve CRAHD. Nancy reported that there has been an uptick in building permits and it's been a challenge to keep up with the requests.

**Tick Education-** Natalie asked about CRAHD's tick prevention efforts since tick season is already underway. Sherry responded that CRAHD has information on ticks and preventing tick-borne diseases on its website. Nancy said she will add the link in her Notes from Town Hall column.

**Mosquito Control-** Nancy reported that street sweeping is almost finished. Public Works will begin clearing catch basins of debris thru the end of June.

**Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community-PFAS in Well Water-** The Departments of Energy and Environmental Health (DEEP) and Public Health (DPH) are going to start bore hole drilling at the firehouse in June. The bore hole tests should help identify ground zero of the PFAS contamination. The town should hear about its application for drinking water remediation in June.

The town has submitted a \$20,000 grant through Representative Joe Courtney's office to cover design work at Killingworth Elementary School (KES).

A town educational session on PFAS and water quality will be scheduled when the investigations and remediation measures are farther along.

Mike Stehney, MD, asked what is known about the health effects of PFAS. He said he would investigate this question further.

Water Quality Issues at Beechwood- A resident of the Beechwood community complained to Nancy that the water smelled like sulfur. Connecticut Water Company tests the water at Beechwood. Ernie Pizzuto explained that the sulfur smell in the water is related to hydrogen sulfite and a sulfur odor is not uncommon. Decayed organic matter generally contributes to the odor. Another resident complained about white sedimentation in the water. Ernie said that white sedimentation is related to the hardness of the water and is pretty typical for bedrock wells, which are more mineralized. The sulfide standard is 250 parts per million (ppm). Above that level there can be a laxative effect.

Nancy asked about the number of septic failures at the park and if changing from a three year to five year pump-out schedule affected septic tank failures. Ernie said it might vary depending on the size of the septic tank. Ernie noted that Beechwood is in a watershed area. A stream runs behind the property into a tributary. Nancy said that Rebecca Drew, our CRAHD sanitarian, has done a walk through on the issue. Nancy said she will find out who is responsible for pump-outs at Beechwood- residents or the Park.

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

March 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting:

MOTION: Nancy Gorski moved and Ernest Pizzuto seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Voting in favor: Natalie Drew, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney. Opposed: 0; Abstain:0. The motion carried: 5:0:0.

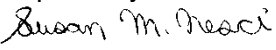
April 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting:

MOTION: Nancy Gorski moved and Ernest Pizzuto seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Voting in favor: Natalie Drew, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, and Ernest Pizzuto; Opposed: 0; Abstain: Mike Stehney. The motion carried: 4:0:1.

MOTION: Nancy Gorski moved and Ernest Pizzuto seconded a motion to adjourn: Voting in favor: Natalie Drew, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney. Opposed: 0; Abstain:0. The motion carried: 5:0:0.

The next meeting will be June 9, 2022

Respectfully submitted:

  
Sue Nesci