

Public Health Agency  
323 Route 81  
Killingworth, CT 06419

July 13, 2022  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair Natalie Ortolli Drew, Robin Duffield, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Michael Stehney and Staff from the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD): Scott Martinson, Director of Health, CRAHD, Sherry Carlson, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Steve Yanco, Chief Sanitarian, Ryan Grenon, Registered Sanitarian

**Members Absent:** Betty Dennis

Chair Natalie Drew called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

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

May 11 Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Nancy Gorski moved and Ernest Pizzuto seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the May 11 regular meeting. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolli Drew, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Michael Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Robin Duffield

June 8- No quorum- Regular meeting was cancelled

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

**Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community-PFAS in Well Water-**The town qualified for a forgivable loan for Safe Drinking Water from the state Department of Public Health (DPH) for the town campus and Killingworth Elementary School (KES). There is a need at KES to understand if a third well can be drilled. There is a proposal to put another well by the library and then to the town campus. We have to wait until drill holes at the town campus help reveal the hydrology and geology before proceeding. There is a feeling that the town campus is ground zero. The Fire Department is also affected. Steve added that filters at four homes tested showed levels were down.

Nancy added that since the 1980s sodium in the water has also been an issue with the town hall campus. The town is no longer washing equipment with salt water. She explained that final design work to solve this issue will probably be ready in the first quarter of next year.

Robin asked about drinking fountains at KES (even if they were shut off for COVID) and the cost of continuing to provide bottled water. Nancy said one well at KES has been turned off and probably another well will have to be tested before drinking fountains can be turned on. Steve said that KES will get a good well. He reported that DPH has said that based on the topography and hydrology the plume has stopped. He added, however, that a small tremor can open it up.

Scott reported that filters were installed at the Killingworth Inn at the traffic circle and PFAS levels were down. Sue asked if testing is required for wells providing food or drink at the traffic circle, since initial testing at the Inn showed PFAS and other sites have refused to be tested. Nancy asked about the cleaning of utensils. Mike inquired if there is a problem, who is liable--owner, DPH, public health? Ryan added that DPH is aware of the issue and both he and Steve said that DPH strongly recommends testing but at this point it is not required for food service sites. Scott added that it's a bit early to require testing but going forward it may be required for food service sites.

Nancy remarked that she has been pleased that state agencies have been on our side through this issue.

**Health District Report:** Scott Martinson and staff reported the following:

**Developing Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health- COVID-** Scott noted that COVID rates are quickly evolving with the new subvariant, BA5, which is more infectious. He observed that cases have fluctuated the last 2 ½ years. He added that though cases are higher than last year; outcomes are down. There has not been a death in the district because of high vaccination rates.

Natalie explained that multiple variants are circulating. Scott cautioned that long COVID is the one to watch. Sherry explained that the state does random testing to see what variants are circulating. She and Scott reminded that two self-test kits per household are still available at the federal level. Scott added that PCR tests are more reliable, citing an 8% positivity rate out of 75 PCR tests of symptomatic individuals. Scott cautioned to watch rates as activities move indoors in the fall. Robin expressed concern about the availability of testing in schools in the fall.

Sherry reported that the district's age 8 and under vaccination clinics were full. She added that local pediatrician's offices were not carrying the vaccine. CVS has the vaccine but doesn't do kids under age two.

Scott added that rates for the first booster for ages 18 and under were low. He explained that people may have COVID multiple times. The next booster may address new variants.

**Mosquito Control-** Nancy reported that storm drains were treated with larvicide three weeks ago to prevent mosquito breeding. Scott added that no triple E activity has been reported in the state. He added that Cockaponset in Chester was one of the testing sites. All 900 mosquitoes tested from the forest were negative.

**Monkeypox-** Scott noted that five cases of Monkeypox were reported in the state but none were in our district. He added that COVID is of greater concern.

**District Staffing-** Scott praised Chief Sanitarian Steve Yenco, RS, who is retiring July 29<sup>th</sup>. He explained that Ryan Grenon, RS, will be the district's main representative in Killingworth. Sue added that she asked for feedback from a local septic tank pumper on the district. The pumper praise for the how easy the district was to work with and how they worked with the pumpers to solve issues.

7:50pm- CRAHD and Nancy sign off. The regular meeting is ended.

MOTION: Ernest Pizzuto moved and Robin Duffield seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolli Drew, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Michael Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: 0. The motion was approved: 5:0:0.

*Susan M. Nesci*  
Sue Nesci  
Secretary

No formal meeting was conducted beyond this point for lack of a quorum. Members present discussed the following:

Mike asked PHA members how we see our role going forward, now that we are part of a health district that delivers public health services for our town. Ernie asked if it now requires monthly meetings since Nancy now represents the town of the district board and Natalie is the alternate.

Robin read the PHA charge in the town charter adopted in 1966. The charter states that: "...it is the sense of this meeting that a generalized public health nursing service, including school nursing, be established until such time as these services are available through a district department of health.".

Mike said that we should tell Nancy that the transition to a health district has gone well. We are represented on CRAHD's board. He suggested we think about meeting quarterly to provide input.

Natalie said she would talk with Nancy about the recommendation and Sue said she would talk with Town Clerk, Dawn Mooney, to see how the suggestion affects the current charter and meeting schedule.