

Public Health Agency  
323 Route 81  
Killingworth, CT 06419

July 14, 2021  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair Natalie Ortoli Drew, Robin Duffield, Cathy Iino, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Mike Stehney and Health Director Amy Scholz.

**Members Absent:** Betty Dennis

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

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

June 9, 2021 Regular Meeting:

**MOTION:** Ernest Pizzuto moved and Mike Stehney seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the June 9th meeting. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortoli Drew, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Robin Duffield and Cathy Iino. The motion carried 4:0:2.

**First Selectman Update-** Cathy reported the following:

**Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community-PFAS in Well Water-** The town has coordinated a public information open house to answer residents questions on PFAS in well water, Tuesday, July 20, 7-9pm at the Fire Station bays. Representatives from the state Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and Public Health (DPH) will be on hand at tables to answer residents questions on PFAS. People can come and go. Connecticut Water, which serves Beechwood and a private well specialist will also be on hand. Amy is working on a press release on this session.

There was also a brief remote one-on-one session with DEEP and DPH experts for residents whose houses tested positive for PFAS to date. Cathy remarked that she was impressed with the residents' research and questions. She added that DEEP is moving rapidly to provide water and install systems for residents with affected wells. There will be have to be a meeting with DEEP to discuss public buildings.

Mike asked if there was anything new about PFAS testing. Fourteen homes have treatment systems. Results from another round of well testing should be available in two weeks. Mike asked about the source. Cathy said that DEEP has been working on identifying wells at risk first. It will be months yet before they identify a source.

**Developing Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health-COVID-** The town has sent out a policy for Town Hall regarding masks, building access, and meetings. The town is not requiring immunization for employees. Amy added that if an employee get sick, CDC has guidelines for return to work.

Cathy said that the current thinking about in-person meetings for committees and commissions is to use the Emergency Operations Center because it's larger and has windows.

Cathy noted that the town doesn't have the technology to do hybrid meetings-in person and remote access by computer. There is a requirement that if someone wants to attend a meeting, the town has to provide the technology. The town can do an in-person meeting with someone calling in. Cathy said she was not sure that met the public access aspect to see who is talking and everyone else attending. Robin Duffield remarked that Parks and Recreation does hybrid meetings at Parmalee Farms in the Pavilion.

**Health Director Update** -Amy reported the following:

**Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community-Coronavirus (COVID-19)**- Case number are slowly trending up. This is similar to the rest of the state. The town had a few weeks with no cases. In the past seven days, there have been five cases from two households. We need to keep an eye on the case numbers. Ernie asked if the recent cases were unvaccinated. Amy said she wasn't sure. She did note that one recent case was a breakthrough in a vaccinated individual.

Moderna has applied for emergency use approval for its vaccine for 12-18 year olds. Pfizer received full approval for its vaccine in the same group. Vaccine approval for those under age 12 is expected by the end of the year or early 2022.

Cathy noted that the town has 1,000 residents age 14 and under.

**Mosquito Testing-** Mosquito tested (486) in our area were all negative. There were two positives for West Nile virus in Milford and South Windsor.

**Connecting People to Needed Health Care Services-Coronavirus (COVID-19)**- Amy reported the following statistics:

# cases past week	5
% Residents fully vaccinated	64.5%
% Resident vaccinated with one dose::	68.5%

Cathy noted that the town has 1,000 residents age 14 and under.

Sue Nesci commended Amy for her response to two major health crises-COVID and PFAS- in her first 6 months as a new Health Director.

**Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health-Coronavirus (COVID-19)**- Robin asked about policies on mask wearing and distancing in schools. She noted there was an anti-mask protest at eighth grade graduation. She also reported that Haddam-Killingworth is not offering a remote option for the next school year. If students need a remote option, they have to use the remote option from the state.

Amy said that DPH hasn't issued guidance on mask wearing for the unvaccinated. There is no mask waiver, according to legal counsel.

**Charter Revision-** Cathy reported that the Charter Revision Committee has been meeting but will not be done in time for the November ballot. Cathy asked Amy to follow up with her on the issue of whether a new member should be appointed to the committee.

**MOTION:** Robin Duffield moved and Cathy Iino seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortoli Drew, Robin Duffield, Cathy Iino, 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 7:46 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan M. Nesci*

Sue Nesci  
Secretary