

Public Health Agency
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419

August 11, 2021
MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Robin Duffield,

Chair Natalie Ortoli Drew called the meeting to order via the GotoMeeting app at 7:02pm.

Minutes- The committee reviewed and approved minutes from the following meeting:
July 14, 2021 Regular Meeting:

Amy had two corrections to the minutes of July 14:

-*Pfizer put in for full approval of its vaccine. It is still currently under emergency use.*
-# cases past 2 weeks 5

MOTION: Mike Stehney moved and Ernest Pizzuto seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the July 14th meeting, as amended. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortoli Drew, Cathy Iino, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Betty Dennis. The motion carried 5:0:1.

First Selectman Update- Cathy reported the following:

Developing Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health-COVID- School Masking Issue- There was a disruption outside a recent school board meeting by a group that opposes masking mandates for children in school. The school board and the state haven't issued any guidance yet. The group with signs saying "Unmask our Kids" used a bullhorn to interrupt the board meeting going on inside the building. The meeting wasn't open to the public because of COVID restrictions. There are several people in Haddam from the anti-masking faction running for school board.

Robin Duffield emailed in a question about quarantine protocols in school. She explained that in the spring it was the practice to not quarantine vaccinated individuals if there were identified as a close contact. Since then, the more contagious Delta variant has become more widespread. Research has shown that vaccinated individuals can still get and more importantly carry/spread the virus even if they are asymptomatic.

Amy said that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state Department of Public Health (DPH) guidance is that individuals who are fully vaccinated with no symptoms do not need to quarantine. They need to wear masks during the 14 day quarantine time frame and monitor symptoms. Vaccinated individuals are still much less likely to get the virus compared to the unvaccinated. It is recommended that fully vaccinated individuals get tested during their quarantine between days 3-5.

Amy noted that there is a statewide mask mandate for schools and day care in place until September 30th

Town Masking Issue- One business has requested that the town issue a mask mandate for buildings open to the public. Cathy noted that the town has not adopted a town-wide mask mandate to date but may reconsider depending on the number of cases. She added that surrounding towns have also not

issued mask mandates to date. Masks are still required indoors on town property. Amy observed that a mask mandate is hard for the town to put in place because of enforcement issues.

Testing- Ernie asked where testing is still available. Amy said that there are less free testing sites available. There are charges at some testing sites. Natalie reported that Yale still maintains free testing sites.

Health Director Update- Amy reported the following:

Developing Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health-COVID- Cases:

cases past 2 weeks 7

Case rate 6.7 per 100,00

Amy explained that we don't know the vaccination status of cases unless in touch with the person. Amy and the state DPH share contact tracing responsibilities.

Vaccination-The town has 57% of the currently eligible population fully vaccinated. The age breakdown for currently vaccinated is as follows:

Age	Approximate %	Town Population Fully Vaccinated
65+	100	
45-64	65	
16-44	71	
12-15	39	

Amy said that she has been in contact with the Superintendent of Schools to promote vaccination.

Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community-PFAS in Well Water- The town coordinated a public information open house to answer residents questions on PFAS in well water on June 22, 7-9pm, at the Fire Station. Approximately forty people attended. Representatives from the state Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and Public Health (DPH) were on hand at tables to answer residents questions on PFAS. Connecticut Water, which serves Beechwood and a private well specialist were also represented. There was a map of the investigational area.

Fifteen residential homes have had filters for PFAS installed. Results are due on nine other homes-eight with elevated levels and one retest. A second round of testing extends from the end of Wolf Hollow toward Roast Meat Hill Road.

Mosquito Testing- The state is testing mosquitoes for West Nile virus and triple E. So far, there have been no positive tests for either in Killingworth.

Betty Dennis asked if there were any reports of Lyme disease. Amy responded that she hasn't seen reports with numbers.

Natalie reported that the Yale lab is seeing a higher concentration of babesia in ages 60-90. Ernie asked if the test for babesia was more definitive than the test for Lyme. Natalie responded that babesia tends to have symptoms while Lyme is not as definitive and the same infection can reoccur.

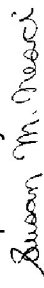
Mice Infestation- Betty Dennis asked Amy the status of a complaint about the demolition of a unit at Beechwood that has an infestation of mice. Amy reported that she met onsite with the Property Manager and saw some droppings in the kitchen area. Traps have been set. Betty noted that the concern is if the unit is dismantled the mice will shatter to other units in the area. The mice need to be exterminated before the unit is dismantled. Amy said she will follow up with Beechwood management.

Charter Revision- Cathy reported that the Charter Revision Committee is on hold because of legal issues regarding representation. The town is consulting legal counsel. The statutes limit the number of public officials on the committee to no more than a third of the members. Five of the seven members currently on the Charter Revision Committee are town officials. The issue will probably have to wait until after the election.

MOTION: Cathy Iino moved and Betty Dennis seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortoli Drew, Betty Dennis, 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 7:58 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Nesci
Secretary