

Public Health Agency  
323 Route 81  
Killingworth, CT 06419

September 8, 2021  
MINUTES

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

Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew called the meeting to order via the GotoMeeting app at 7:01pm.

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

August 11, 2021 Regular Meeting:

Betty had one correction to the minutes of August 11th:

- Betty noted that the concern is if the unit is dismantled the mice will scatter to other units in the area.

**MOTION:** Betty Dennis moved and Ernest Pizzuto seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the August 11th meeting, as amended. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolini Drew, Betty Dennis, Cathy Iino, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions Robin Duffield. The motion carried 6:0:1.

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

**Developing Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health-COVID-** The town will conduct virtual meetings for the future. Access to town hall is limited. People needing to get in can ring the bell, keep their distance, and wear a mask. Masks are still required indoors on all town property.

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

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

Case rate	19 per 100,00
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Amy explained that our current case rate puts the town in the red zone, the highest category. She added that the town has been in the red zone for the past three weeks.

**Vaccination-** The town has 68% fully vaccinated. The age breakdown for currently vaccinated is as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Approximate % Town Population Fully Vaccinated</u>
65+	100
45-64	65
25-44	71
18-24	82
12-17	50

Booster shots are now allowed for those who are immunocompromised. We are awaiting recommendations on booster shots for other groups. Mike noted that Middlesex has the highest vaccination rates.

Robin asked how long the isolation period is for someone with a positive COVID test. Amy said it's 10 days in isolation. Return is on the 11th day if there is no fever for the past 24 hours, without medications, and symptoms improving. This protocol applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

Ernie asked if the Haddam-Killingworth schools require masks. Robin, who is a middle school teacher, said yes under an order from the Governor, which expires September 30th.

Robin raised a concern that teachers in households with positive cases can be in school until they have a positive test. Testing is recommended 3-5 days if a close contact is positive. She remarked that this practice doesn't follow the current science.

Cathy asked if there was any pushback on mask wearing. Robin said no. She explained that no leave for teachers, no remote teaching availability for teachers. and no remote learning for students make it difficult. She said that presently teachers have to prepare work in a packet or send it electronically for students because there are no online classes.

**Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community-PFAS in Well Water-** Sixteen residential homes have had filters for PFAS installed. Twelve homes with the systems were retested and no PFAS was detected. The other four homes will be tested in September. Testing will continue to insure that the filters are still working. Mike asked about the ongoing cost for remediation with filters. Amy remarked that it is quite expensive but she doesn't yet have an exact cost. Amy reported that the DEEP is working on putting the pieces together to try to identify the source of the PFAS. Cathy said that a meeting on the PFAS issue is being set up in town hall for town Public Works staff.

Sue asked about any risk from PFAS in non-stick cookware as it ages. Amy said it's probably a good idea to switch out scratched or damaged non-stick cookware. She will ask the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the state Department of Public Health (DPH) for any guidance.

Mosquito Testing- The state is testing mosquitoes for West Nile virus. There have been no positive tests in Killingworth. Two cases in people have been reported so far in the state..

Lyme Disease- Four cases of Lyme disease have been reported for the period January-August.

Power Outage- Most restaurants were closed in the wake of power outages from a recent storm. One restaurant was operating and Amy shut it down. She will prepare a checklist for restaurants on responding to power outages.

Mice Infestation- Betty Dennis asked Amy the status of a complaint about the demolition of a unit at Beechwood that had a mouse infestation. Amy did an initial inspection and found mouse droppings. She explained that she hasn't been back since that inspection but she did speak with one neighbor. Betty reported that a backhoe smashed a hole in the unit and a rainstorm took off the front door.

Parmalee Artisan Market- Natalie asked about masking for outdoor areas at the Parmalee Artisan Market scheduled for September 11th. Ernie reported that the Killingworth Krier said that masks will be required for unvaccinated but not for those who have been vaccinated. Cathy and Sue both expressed concern about the Pavilion, which is past years has been crowded with vendor tables and participants. Amy said she will give Parmalee a call and check on the set-up when she is there Saturday morning to inspect the food vendors.

Marijuana Smoking in Parks- Robin explained that her husband Jim Duffield chairs the Parks and Recreation Commission. They have received complaints about marijuana smoking at the Killingworth Recreational Park. Cathy said that the town can regulate the fields either through an ordinance or Parks and Recreation can establish and post rules. Cathy recommended that Parks and Recreation establish rules. There was a discussion on what a policy and signs should say-no smoking or no smoking and vaping. Cathy said she would check regulations and get back with more information at the next meeting.

Sue reported that she met with Parks and Recreation several years ago regarding establishing rules on smoking and vaping as well as posting signs. Vaping was the concern at that point. She added that DPH had recommendations and signs available to towns at that time. She said that she would check past minutes and notes and get more information to Amy.

Barn at Circle- Betty asked about the status of a new barn-like building at the circle. Amy reported that the septic system had been okayed. Plans are still needed before the building can be completed and open.

**Charter Revision**- Cathy reported that the Charter Revision Committee is on hiatus because of legal issues regarding representation by town officials. The issue will probably have to wait until after the election.

**MOTION:** Robin Duffield moved and Cathy lino seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolini Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Cathy lino, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: 0. The motion carried 7:0:0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan M. Nesci*

Sue Nesci  
Secretary