

Public Health Agency  
323 Route 81  
Killingworth, CT 06419

October 19, 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, Ryan Grenon, Registered Sanitarian

Chair Natalie Drew called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

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

July 13 Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Robin Duffield made and Mike Stehney seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the July 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolli Drew, Robin Duffield, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Michael Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions:0. The motion carried: 6:0:0.

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

**Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community-PFAS in Well Water-** She met with the state Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Energy and Environmental Protections (DEEP) last Friday. We will have the results of the Town Hall campus analysis on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Our application for a Tier 2 remediation project is under review. If it is approved, we can move forward with remediation for the Town Hall campus. Nancy noted that Town Hall can use bottled water for drinking but we are washing our fire trucks with water that has high levels of sodium. Remediation for Killingworth Elementary School still has to be resolved. Robin asked if the school district is aware of the meetings with the state agencies on this issue. Nancy said yes, the district has been kept updated.

Nancy continued that residential areas affected by PFAS have been remediated and are safe. She added that we are looking for grant funding to continue to address issues. She explained that remediation is tough with a forever chemical. It lasts until the next tremor opens up a fissure.

Nancy said that she is hoping to have a town hall meeting on PFAS in the January-February timeframe.

**Speeding-**Natalie Drew brought up the issue of speeding on Route 81. Sue Nesci said it is also an issue on Parker Hill Extension. She noted that there are a lot of bikers and walkers in that stretch of road and there is no walking or biking path and sometimes limited room off the side of the road to avoid vehicles. Nancy Gorski said the town has received numerous complaints about speeding. Next month the town will set up a Traffic Safety Committee.

**Running Brook Nursery Pollution Concern-** Nancy reported that Planning & Zoning (P&Z) has issued two cease and desist orders to Running Brook Nursery regarding pollution activity. There are two concerns. The first is there is a large woodpile that is used to make wood chips. If diseased beech trees are among the wood chipped, it could spread the disease to other trees. In addition, the mulch is treated with a fire retardant. Runoff from the chipping operation could increase acidity in adjacent areas. The second issue is that the greenhouse is heated with wood but there is no smokestack. Nancy explained that P&Z is working to remediate the issues.

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

**Developing Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health- COVID-** Scott reported that last week Killingworth had less than five COVID cases reported. He added that the positivity rate over the summer hovered between 10-12%. Vaccination rates with the new bivalent booster are going well in the district but not nationally.

Sherry Carlson reported that appointments for the bivalent and flu vaccines are available every Wednesday at the health district office in Old Saybrook. She added that children 5-8 will be eligible for the bivalent vaccine in early November. Sherry said the district has done onsite vaccination for first responders.

Robin Duffield noted that the school district asked for onsite vaccination and was told it wasn't possible. She noted that it's hard for teachers to go to the health district's office in Old Saybrook during the current hours and the district can't get substitutes. Scott responded that the health district can't get to every school. He added that the district isn't the only options. Pharmacies throughout the district have both the bivalent booster and flu shots available. He reported that the district has given 33,000 COVID shots to date. Sherry added that she can't be on the road to every school but would be happy to set up special times for teachers. Robin responded that the school district is going to a local pharmacy to get shots for teachers after the district turned down their request.

Nancy Gorski questioned whether the district could provide COVID boosters and flu shots for elderly residents of the Beechwood community. She noted that Beechwood residents represent a high concentration of at-risk seniors with limited means and transportation. Sherry indicated that primary care physicians are giving flu shots. Sue Nesci reported that Killingworth Family Pharmacy is giving both the COVID booster and flu shots. Appointments can be made online at the pharmacy's website or over the phone. Sherry said she could make appointments online for residents who weren't computer literate.

**Flu-** Scott predicted that we may be in for a bad flu season because with COVID lockdowns and masking the past two years, the virus hasn't had much chance to circulate. He added that there are lot of flu variants circulating in Europe.

**Monkeypox & Ebola-** Scott reported that the district hasn't had any Monkeypox cases in the area yet.

**PHA New Member Appointments & New Meeting Schedule-** Scott reviewed two issues with the committee:

### **New Member Appointment**

MOTION: Scott Martinson moved and Nancy Gorski seconded a motion to appoint Alice Lucas, RN for a term expiring in December 2022. This vacancy was created by the death in July of member Betty Dennis. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortoli Drew, Robin Duffield, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Michael Stehney; Opposed:0; Abstentions:0. The motion carried: 6:0:0.

Nancy explained that Scott will reappoint everyone in December.

**New Meeting Schedule:** Natalie Drew noted the monthly health district board meetings oversee a lot of the issues that the Public Health Agency used to do monthly when we were a town health department. There has been some discussion of moving to quarterly meetings. Nancy represents our

town on the district board and Natalie serves as her alternate. Robin Duffield asked if we have to send cancellation notices for the November and December scheduled meetings. Natalie responded that she will send notices to the Town Clerk.

MOTION: Natalie Drew moved and Nancy Gorski seconded a motion that the committee change to quarterly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm for 2023 on the dates listed below and in ensuing years.

2023 PHA Meeting Dates:

January 11

April 12

July 12

October 11

Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolli Drew, Robin Duffield, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Michael Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions:0. The motion carried 6:0:0.

MOTION: Ernest Pizzuto moved and Robin Duffield seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolli Drew, Robin Duffield, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Michael Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: 0. The motion carried: 6:0:0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

*Susan M. Nesci*

Sue Nesci  
Secretary