

Public Health Agency
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419

January 11, 2023
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew, Nancy Gorski, Alice Lucas, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Michael Stehney and Staff from the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD): Sherry Carlson, RN, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, and Ryan Grenon, Registered Sanitarian

Members Absent: Robin Duffield

Chair Natalie Drew called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Minutes- The committee reviewed and approved the following minutes:

October 19th Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ernest Pizzuto made and Mike Stehney seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the October 19th regular meeting. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolini Drew, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Michael Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Alice Lucas. The motion carried: 6:0:0.

New Member: Natalie Drew welcomed new member Alice Lucas, RN. She noted that Alice has been active in the healing ministry at St. Lawrence Church and also has worked with seniors at Beechwood.

First Selectman Update- Nancy Gorski reported the following:

Investigate Health Problems/Hazards Affecting the Community- Power Outages at Beechwood- The storm before Christmas Eve resulted in a power outage at 5:45pm. The Ambulance Association was getting calls from seniors in the Beechwood Community at 4:00am. Nancy noted that there doesn't appear to be a protocol for what to do to help seniors isolated in modular homes during an extended power outage. She noted that the community center in the park has a generator and might be an option but questioned how to notify residents and how they would get to the community center. She added that she is working on a solution. Alice Lucas noted that residents are on private wells so an extended power outage affects not only heat and lights but access to water. She added that there is a newsletter for the community and that residents may have cell phones that can be contacted.

Septic Issues at Beechwood- There were 11 septic failure at Beechwood in 2022. Nancy said that the Board of Selectmen was concerned that the 1,000 gallon tanks may need more frequent pump-outs and that may increase costs for residents. Ryan Grenon explained that installation and repair of systems is under the authority of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). He said he will monitor the issue.

Health District Report: Staff from the Connecticut River Area Health District reported the following:

Investigate Health Problems/Hazards Affecting the Community-PFAS- Ryan Grenon said that there is a meeting with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on Friday. A final report on the issue is expected soon. The report will be on the website as soon as it is finalized. Mike asked what the final report will cover. Nancy explained that a draft of the final report shows high levels of PFAS in samples. The town has requested funds for remediation from the state revolving fund. She added that there is a lot of competition for funds and we don't know yet if the town made the final cut. She reported that the town is meeting with an engineer to look at using as membrane to

contain the plume. She cautioned that the science is not yet there on how to eradicate PFAS. Nancy added that she hopes to hold an information session on PFAS and COVID in late February.

COVID- Sherry Carlson reported that Killingworth's COVID rate at 18.97% was the highest in the health district and close to the state average of 17.36% this week. There is a new COVID variant. Federally funded COVID vaccine will be going away. Coverage will go back to private insurance but not include those under age 18. Sherry added that CRAHD is the only health district in the state doing immunizations for this age group. More providers will be needed in the future to provide vaccinations.

Nancy asked if there are any reports on results from home test kits. Sherry responded that only results from test kits used in schools are reported to the state. Ryan said he would bring a box of test kits to town hall.

Flu- Sherry reported that flu appeared to peak in the state the third week in December. It is starting to decline.

RSV- Sherry added that Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is down 50% from its peak. We are starting to see Norovirus

New Business

Charter Revision- Sue Nesci asked the status of revision in the name and function of the Public Health Committee in the 2009 Town Charter. She explained that the committee's recommendations to change the name of the committee from Public Health Nursing Committee and update its purpose were not adopted in 2009. Natalie Drew reported that the Charter Revision Committee was meeting on January 12th at 9pm and seeking public input.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:52pm. The next quarterly meeting will be April 12th.

Susan M. Nesci
Sue Nesci
Secretary