

Public Health Agency  
323 Route 81  
Killingworth, CT 06419

July 12, 2023  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair Natalie Ortolí Drew, Robin Duffield, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Michael Stehney and from the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD): Scott Martinson, Director of Health

**Members Absent:** Alice Lucas

Chair Natalie Drew called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**Minutes:**

April 12., 2023 Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Ernest Pizzuto made and Mike Stehney seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the April 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolí Drew, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Michael Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Robin Duffield. The motion carried: 5:0:1.

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

**Investigate Health Problems/Hazards- PFAS-** The town is waiting on designs for filtration systems for Killingworth Elementary School (KES), lower town hall campus (Public Works) and upper campus (Town Hall). The town is working with an engineer on remediation. Toilet flushing is an issue because it creates a secondary plume that contaminates the site. The town has met with the Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) on addressing two additional homes on Route 81 with lower action levels. One site is a farm that raises organic cattle. Both sites are under the action level now. Another round of testing for all residential sites is planned for October. Nancy added that she is looking at another town hall meeting for late September or October. to update residents on PFAS

The cost of testing on an annual basis could run to \$100,000. The state legislature passed legislation to direct upwards of \$20-30 million for remediation. Mike Stehney asked about litigation to recover costs. Nancy replied that the town is working with the state Attorney General's office on the litigation issue. Canton also is dealing with the same issue.

Scott Martinson reported that testing for PFAS level is just beginning outside Killingworth. Connecticut Water is working on grants to draw water from Clinton or the Kelseytown Reservoir in Clinton.

Mike Stehney asked how concerned should others be if their wells have not been tested. Scott explained that the plan is not to test the whole town. Testing may expand as testing at sites subsequent to those already identified rolls along.

Scott noted that PFAS is also a concern for the Connecticut River. Current recommendations are to eat no more than one meal of a species of fish in a month. Robin asked if there was signage along the river warning about fish meals. Scott replied there were signs but not on private property.

Addiction Issues- Nancy noted that addiction to fentanyl has become prevalent in Killingworth. There have been two stakeholders meetings to address the issue, which is a tough one. Journey Home Recovery has two homes in town to help users. Mike Stehney asked if there was any data on fentanyl use and traffic accidents. Scott said he didn't know. Nancy reported that if anyone needs help with the issue, they should reach out to her or Mercedes Ricciuti.

### **Director of Health Update**

**Investigate Health Problems/Hazards-COVID & Flu**-Scott said that October was probably going to be the start of the fall wave for vaccination for COVID and flu. He noted that we don't know if the vaccine from Moderna will be a single dose or require additional doses. Vaccination was free during the pandemic but price may be an upcoming issue. The Connecticut River Health District (CRAHD) has seen a couple of COVID cases. Sherry Carlson, RN and other CRAHD staff will staff flu vaccination clinics. They may also administer COVID vaccination at the same time.

Robin Duffield asked about reporting requirements. Would we know anything else besides hospitalizations? Scott said they will follow CDC guidelines. Nancy Gorski asked if anything has been released about schools in the fall. Scott said nothing much at this time. Robin, who is a teacher in our school system, reported that last year's guideline was that kids could return to school if they were fever-free for 24 hours. Mike Stehney asked if there were guidelines for teachers. Robin replied that testing was not provided free, which was an issue for teachers.

Tick-borne Illnesses- Scott reported that tick-borne illnesses were up. CRAHD has been doing 25 tests per month. Fifty percent of the ticks tested were positive. He observed that physicians were better than 10 years ago at recognizing babesiosis, which while not as prevalent as Lyme, is more serious. Natalie added that two new ticks were identified as carriers for Lyme and babesiosis. Those who are immunocompromised have a higher risk for complications.

Running Brook Farms- Sue Nesci asked if there has been any update on the issue of air pollution from outdoor wood-burning furnaces used to heat the greenhouses at the Running Brook Farms nursery. Nancy said that there has been remediation but we will probably not have an idea of how effective until October when the nursery begin using its wood furnaces. She added that she is more concerned at this time about the wood grinding issue. Nancy also noted that there have been issues with private wood-burning stoves used to heat homes.

**Strengthen Communities & Partnerships to Improve Health**- Scott reported that the town of Durham will be joining CRAHD.

Ernest Pizzuto moved and Mike Stehney seconded a motion to adjourn. 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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. The next quarterly meeting will be October 11, 2023.

Sue Nesci  
Secretary