

Public Health Agency  
323 Route 81  
Killingworth, CT 06419

April 10, 2024  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair Natalie Ortoli Drew, First Selectman Eric Couture, Robin Duffield, Alice Lucas, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Mike Stehney and Staff from the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD): Scott Martinson, Director of Health, and Sherry Carlson, Public Health Nurse Supervisor.

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

### **Minutes**

#### January 10, 2024 Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Eric Couture made and Robin Duffield seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Voting in favor: Eric Couture, Natalie Ortoli Drew, Robin Duffield, Alice Lucas, Sue Nesci, and Ernest Pizzuto; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Mike Stehney. The motion carried: 6:0:1.

#### 2024 Meeting Calendar

**MOTION:** Natalie Drew moved and Robin Duffield seconded a motion to approve the 2024 meeting calendar. Voting in favor: Natalie Drew, Robin Duffield, Eric Couture, Sue Nesci, Alice Lucas, and Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney: Opposed:0; Abstentions:0. The motion carried: 7:0:1

**First Selectman Update-** Eric Couture reported the following:

**Investigate Health Problems/Hazards Affecting the Community- PFAS**- A meeting is scheduled on the 11<sup>th</sup> on the filtration systems for the Killingworth Elementary School (KES) and town hall campus. The state's Drinking Water Revolving Fund will help fund the filtrations systems. The state is surveying wells from homes on Wolf Hollow and other homes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will announce new standards today that could cause other houses to be tested. Robin asked what changed in state guidelines. Eric explained that state guidelines moved to a more stringent four parts per trillion standard.

Mike asked how it took 30 years before we knew the harm from PFAS. Scott explained that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) do a pretty good job. Ernie noted that other chemicals travel farther in ground water. He observed that asbestos is another example of an agent with a wide range of utility and subsequently a wide range of exposure, which helped reveal the risk. The technology to measure is parts per trillion is relatively recent and that helped track the risk. Scott added that there are only two labs in the state that test for PFAS and the specialized tests are expensive.

Robin asked what areas in town were tested. Eric explained that PFAS was only stored at the firehouse and only used in one location, Beechwood. The town stopped using PFAS in the early 1980s.

**Beechwood**-Most Killingworth homes have a five year pump-out for their septic systems. Looking at reducing the pump out requirement for Beechwood because the septic systems are smaller and issues

persist. The previous owner of the park used a three year pump requirement. Will talk to Scott and Ryan further.

Town Hall- Town Hall has an issue with salt in the water and an advisory has been posted to not drink the water.

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

**Investigate Health Problems/Hazards Affecting the Community- Disease Tracking**- Sherry Carlson reported the following disease specific tracking for Killingworth in 2023:

COVID	24
Hepatitis C	10
Lyme Disease	14
RSV	10
Salmonella	2 (travelled to Mexico)

International Travel- Scott Martinson noted that the district's website has information on international travel. There have been a lot of visitors to this feature.

Tuberculosis Cases- Sherry Carlson explained that the district has seen an uptick in Tuberculosis (TB) cases that appears to be tied to immigrants from part of the world that do not have good TB control. Recently there has been an uptick in non-English speakers. She explained the protocol the health district has to follow for TB cases:

- Evaluate symptoms
- Interviews
- Sputum testing-3 negative sputums over 14 days
- Chest x-rays
- Negative pressure room-14 days
- Hospital isolation-1 month
- Treatment-teach medication regime-9 months
- Contact tracing- immediate contacts tested

Sherry added that the district uses incentives, such as gas cards, to reward patients for keeping appointments.

Ticks & Mosquitoes- Natalie asked about standing water and tick risk. Scott reported that 30-40% of the ticks tested were positive.

Scott explained that the district treats storm drains with larvicide twice a year to control mosquitoes. He added that involves 1,100 storm drains in Killingworth.

MOTION: Ernie Pizzuto moved and Robin Duffield seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Eric Couture, Natalie Ortolli Drew, Robin Duffield, Alice Lucas, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: 0. The motion carried: 7:0:0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm. The next quarterly meeting will be July 10.

*Sue Nesci*

Sue Nesci  
Secretary

