

Public Health Agency
Town of Killingworth, CT
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419

January 8, 2025
REPORT

Attending: Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew, First Selectman Eric Couture, Robin Duffield, Alice Lucas, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Mike Stehney

Staff from the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD): Health Director Scott Martinson, Public Health Nurse Supervisor Sherry Carlson, and Registered Sanitarian Ryan Gregnon

First Selectman Eric Couture called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

January 8th Meeting

The following items were discussed. No votes were taken due to a lack of a quorum. Three members need to be reappointed.

First Selectman Update:

First Selectman Eric Couture reported the following:

Septic Pump-out Regulations- Work is ongoing on updating septic pump-out regulations. There is an issue with applying the five-year pump-out requirement in Beechwood. The properties have smaller capacity systems that may require a different pump-out schedule. Eric said he has talked with the general counsel for the town. Ryan Gregnon added that figuring out a solution for Beechwood will be a long process.

PFAS- A timeline for addressing the PFAS issue in Town Hall and the elementary school is moving forward. Test results for four to five homes on Wolf Hollow show that the remediation systems are working.

CRAHD CONTRACT- Eric Couture noted that the town's contract with CRAHD is up in February. He will bring up contract renewal with the Board of Selectmen. Robin Duffield asked if there would be any changes with the new contract. Eric replied that he will have to check the financial records but didn't think there would be a financial issue.

Health District Update:

Health Director Scott Martinson reported the following:

Bird Flu- Highly contagious avian influenza, also known as bird flu, has been detected in the state in poultry. It does not easily spread to humans but it's important to maintain good hygiene around poultry and pet birds. Sherry Carlson added that the U.S. reported the first death from H1N1. While there is no urgent requirement for widespread action, the milking industry is doing tests in milk cows. The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) website has further information, including for people with chickens. The advice includes staying away from infected birds. DEEP noted that although there have been no cases in Connecticut or the Northeast, the risk may increase with the annual migration of birds.

Eric Couture noted that Killingworth has A Place Called Hope for wild bird rehabilitation. They should be contacted with any updated recommendations for bird flu.

Intern- The Health District has a new intern, a senior from Haddam-Killingworth High School.

Public Health Nurse Supervisor Sherry Carlson reported the following:

Flu- 10-15 cases of influenza are being reported in the health district from physician testing. Scott Martinson added that the health district is still giving flu shots.

COVID/STREP- Robin reported that they are seeing a lot of absences in schools from COVID. Sherry added that they are encouraging parents to keep kids with strep or pneumonia out of school.

Other Issues

Blood Pressure Testing- Natalie Drew questioned whether the town or district is still involved in blood pressure testing for the senior group that meets at the First Congregational Church. She suggested that rather than repeating blood pressure screening monthly, other topics be presented. Robin Duffield explained that the Park and Recreation Department set up the testing. Alice Lucas reported that St. Lawrence Church has been sending a volunteer nurse to do blood pressure checks every week for about the past two years. The service is advertised in the Estuary Bulletin.

Sherry Carlson noted that most towns have senior centers that provide health and other programs for seniors. Killingworth does not have a senior center. Mike Stehney asked whether there was a need for such programs based on specific health issues in town. He added that issues should be addressed based on data for needs. Robin added that there is no regular meeting place for seniors. Sherry noted that Youth and Family Services in Killingworth works with all age groups and serves both Haddam and Killingworth.

Natalie recommended that dangling issues be addressed at the April meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:48pm.

Sue Nesci,
Secretary

