

TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH

Public Health Agency

323 Route 81

Killingworth, CT 06419

MINUTES

October 12, 2011

Members Present: Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew, Brian Fitzsimmons, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, RS, First Selectwoman Catherine Iino, and Interim Health Director Thad King, MPH, RS

Absent: Gene Bagnoli, Holly Darin, Esq. Martha Hogan, and Ingrid O'Donnell

Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew called the meeting to order at 7:08pm. She noted that the Public Health Agency did not have a quorum. She noted that the school representative position on the Public Health Agency was still vacant and recommended that members submit names for consideration.

First Selectman Update

Cathy Iino reported that she met with the Chatham Health District Board in September following the town public information meeting on the proposal to join the district. The board was appreciative of the issues Killingworth faces in providing public health services. They concurred with the Public Health Agency's alternate approach that the town consider the interim step of hiring a part-time MPH, RS as health director and sanitarian at this time. Cathy explained that such a recommendation will have to go to the Board of Selectman.

Interim Health Director Report

Thad King noted that the Chatham Board was looking for two criteria to be in place in Killingworth before accepting the town into the health district: 1) a positive vote from the Board of Selectman and 2) fully qualified staff in place and supportive of the initiative. He added that these two conditions were in place in other towns that have joined the district and the district has usually assumed local staff. He recommended that the town move forward to hire a qualified part-time health director and sanitarian.

He reported that the district received a lead abatement grant that included Killingworth. This funding is retroactive for work already done. The grant is based on the number of lead cases identified in the town.

He explained that the district was working on a major grant initiative under the CDC ACHIEVE program to assess need, build capacity, do outreach, network existing programs to address physical activity and nutrition in Middlesex County. Either the health district or the Middletown Health Department will direct the grant throughout the county.

He reported that the school-based flu vaccine clinic served 400 children and adults. He explained that CDC is focusing on vaccinating school-aged children in order to stem the spread of a flu epidemic by 10%. He added that seniors are traditionally served through other community channels, including physicians, pharmacies, and other providers.

Uranium Issue

Ernest Pizzuto reported on follow-up research he did in response to questions raised during the public information meeting about uranium in Killingworth's water. He spoke with Bernie Toll from the state Department of Public Health. In Madison, 20-30% of wells tested were positive and the town recommended that people sample their own wells. In Killingworth, the Department of Public Health met with then First Selectman Richard Cabral and then Director of Health Dr. Winokur. The new middle school was tested as well as 4 wells in the four quadrants of the town. Ernest Pizutoo noted that testing four wells is not considered a representative sampling. He reported that in the Newton area, the state Department of Public Health helped design a random sampling of 50 wells and did the analysis.

Thad Kind recommended the town consider doing the sample kind of survey. Ernie Pizzuto noted that the sampling should be done over time as the concentration of uranium changes based on water levels.

Emergency Preparedness

Natalie Drew suggested that if committee members had additional suggestions on how to improve public health response during the recent Hurricane Irene that they share them with the town's Emergency Preparedness committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

The next meeting will be November 9.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Nesci

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Secretary