

Public Health Agency
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419

October 10,, 2018
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Natalie Ortolì Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Cathy Iino (*arrived 7:30pm*), Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Mike Stehney, and Health Director Paul Hutcheon.

Members Absent: Cheryl Fine

Chair Natalie Ortolì Drew called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Minutes- The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 12th meeting. Paul Hutcheon made the following correction to the discussion on Lead in Children: "Paul noted that one child was confirmed with lead poisoning last year."

MOTION: Ernest Pizzuto moved and Betty Dennis seconded a motion to accept the September 12th minutes, as amended. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolì Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, and Ernest Pizzuto; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Mike Stehney. The motion carried 5:0:1.

First Selectman Update - The First Selectman update was deferred until discussion of the health district issue.

Health Director Update Paul Hutcheon provided the following updates:

Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems/Hazards- Disease Reporting- The committee reviewed the monthly environmental reporting sheets for September.

Radon Mapping- The committee reviewed an initial map overlay of radon test kit results. The map was developed by a college student in environmental science. Paul remarked that there didn't seem to be any pattern to test results. They appeared to be scattered around town. Ernest Pizzuto recommended inserting state roads in the map to give a geographic reference but not provide sufficient detail to identify individual properties with results. Paul recommended that the message should be that testing is only way to know the results for a home.

Paul has requested 50 free radon kits from the state health department for this year. He won't know how many the town will receive until the state reviews orders from all local health departments.

Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Safety-Septic Tank Records & Notifications- Paul said that the department secretary is catching up on septic tank pump out reminder notices.

Develop Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health- Annual Reports- Paul submitted annual reports to the state health department and town.

Connecting People to Needed Health Services- Flu Clinics- Paul has listed available options for flu shots on the website. He explained that VNA Community Healthcare had a funding cut.

They will not be offering flu clinics at Jensen's or for the town. The Estuary Council of Senior Clubs offered to send a bus to Jensen's and transport residents to their Old Saybrook location, but only received two responses. The Connecticut River Area Health District will be offering clinics at all schools. Those clinics are open to the community. In addition, the Killingworth Family Pharmacy will offer flu shots at posted times on weekdays. Other area pharmacies also offer flu shots.

Shingles Vaccine- There was a brief discussion on availability of the shingles shot. Killingworth Family Pharmacy and other area pharmacies will offer the shot, based on availability.

2019 Meeting Dates- The committee reviewed a list of meeting dates for 2019.

MOTION: Mike Stehney moved and Ernest Pizzuto seconded a motion to accept the list of 2019 committee meeting dates. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolini Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: 0. The motion carried 6:0:0.

Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health

Health District Evaluation- The committee spent the majority of the meeting continuing discussion of health districts and other options for providing public health services in the town.

Cathy lino reported that the Board of Selectmen approved a resolution to send a letter to the state health department indicating the town's interest in incentive funding for part-time health departments to join or form a health district. Paul Hutcheon added that the state responded back with an approximately 40-page contract, which the town needs to review. He has begun work on the paperwork that the contract requires. He confirmed with the state Department of Public Health that the town can decline the contract.

The state health department is offering one-time incentive funding to part-time health departments. The funding involves a \$15,000 grant; \$10,000 goes to the town and \$5,000 to the existing or new health district. The town has until May 31, 2019 to join/form a health district.

Cathy lino explained that the committee's final recommendation will go for approval to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Then, there will be a presentation on the proposal at a town meeting. The final step is a town referendum for voters to approve or reject the recommendation..

Cathy cautioned in response to questions that it will be a hard sell to the town if spending for the option the committee proposes is more than the current per capita cost of public health services of \$7.12.

The committee identified four options to explore:

1. *Remain a part-time health department*-The committee discussed planning for the future when Paul Hutcheon retires. The town needs a registered sanitarian (RS), which requires a Bachelor's degree and passing a test. The state requires that a Masters in Public Health (MPH) oversee a health department. Paul noted in response to a question from Cathy lino that the majority of his time was spent in RS activities. Sue Nesci asked if there was any data on how many registered sanitarians in the state also had an MPH. Paul said that recent state health department annual reports do not include that manpower information. Ernest Pizzuto remarked that we have twice been successful in recruiting an RS, MPH as a part-time health director.

2. *Contract with a full-time health department for some/all public health services*-The committee discussed approaching full-time health departments using one of two models:

1) contract for both sanitarian and health director services; or

2) contracting for health director services and the town hires a part-time sanitarian.

Paul cautioned that there is only one model like the second option in the state. The New Milford health director also serves as health director for Washington, which hires its own sanitarian. He also noted that full-time health departments are more likely to have higher per capita costs. Cathy said she will contact Madison (pop.-18,000) and Paul will contact both Essex and Westbrook (pop < 7,000) to assess initial interest.

3. *Join an existing health district*- Paul distributed a health district evaluation timeline and a list of questions to ask health districts. He asked members to get back to him with questions on or additions to the list of questions.

Paul explained that the only contiguous health district is the Connecticut River Valley Health District (CRAHD) , based out of Clinton. CRAHD also includes Haddam. They have met with Cathy and Paul to assess the town's interest in joining their district and taking advantage of the state incentive grant. The town has worked with CRAHD on lead grants and emergency preparedness. CRAHD's per capita cost is \$11.40. Mike Stehney recommended that we invite CRAHD to the next committee meeting to see if they offer extra services that would help our town. Cathy asked if we could also research the possibility of joining a different health district

Paul reported that he had talked with the Director of Health of the Plainville-Southington Health District, which is in the process of adding Middlefield. Middlefield is not contiguous to the district. He distributed a presentation that was used in the process of adding Middlefield. Their per capita is \$6.75. They also require towns to contribute to a reserve fund, which is refundable if the town leaves the district. Cathy asked Paul to ask the district if they would consider adding our town.

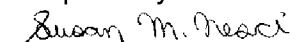
Paul also suggested that we contact the LedgeLight Health District, based out of Groton but extending to Lyme and East Lyme. The district has a per capita similar to our town and includes small towns. Their per capita cost is \$7.29. Paul will contact LedgeLight to assess their interest.

4. *Form a new health district*- This option seemed the least likely. The state requires that a health district involve two or more towns or have a population of 50,000. Cathy has contacted Durham (pop.-7,255) and they are not interested. All the other surrounding towns are either in a health district or full-time health department.

MOTION: Robin Duffield moved and Cathy lino seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Betty Dennis, Natalie Ortoli Drew, Robin Duffield, Cathy lino, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions :0. The motion carried 7:0:0

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next meeting will be November 14, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan M. Nesci
Sue Nesci, Secretary