

Public Health Agency
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419

February 14, 2018
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Natalie Ortolì Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Cathy lino, 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 7:03pm.

Minutes- The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 17 meeting. Paul Hutcheon requested the following correction (*italicized*) to the minutes:

- FDA Food Code-add class *three* to to class two to describe our food service establishment classifications under the FDA Food Code.

MOTION: Betty Dennis moved and Robin Duffield seconded acceptance of the January 17th minutes, as amended. Voting in favor: Betty Dennis, Natali Ortolì Drew, Robin Duffield, and Ernest Pizzuto; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Cathy lino, Sue Nesci, and Mike Stehney. The motion carried 4:0:3.

First Selectman Update - Cathy lino, joined by Paul Hutcheon, provided the following updates:

Enforcing Laws & Regulation- Farmers Market- Parmelee Farms has decided to discontinue Saturday farmers markets during the summer months because of a decline in vendor participation. Two vendors approached Cathy and suggested that a farmers market with 10 vendors in East Haddam move to Killingworth. Chatfield Hollow Farm will run the market. Vendors will pay a fee. The market will be limited to food and will not include crafters.

The market will run on Wednesday afternoons, 4-6pm, during summer months. It will be located near Rocco Field on the grass just north of the library. Parking will be available at both Rocco and the library. Both the library and adjacent Transfer Station will be closed during market hours. Cathy said she will check the hours with the Little League schedule for Rocco to see if there are scheduling conflicts. Electricity for vendors can be run from the flashing light sign. The proposal needs to be run by Planning and Zoning.

Paul Hutcheon explained that farm vendors not preparing food need only an initial inspection for the season. Vendors preparing food and commercial vendors follow a different inspection schedule. There is a portalet at Rocco Field and a station for hand washing. There was some uncertainty on how the water supply for the station operates since there is no running water in the area.

Connecting Community to Health Services-VNA Blood Pressure Clinics- Cathy commented that members of the Senior Club contacted her with concerns that funding from the Public Health Agency for VNA blood pressure checks was being taken away. The Agency provides \$360 for four blood pressure clinics and the Senior Club matches the funding with \$360 for four more clinics. Cathy explained that the town also gives the Senior Club \$1,600 that helps fund their half of the VNA payments. Paul added that the 55 attendees the VNA reported for the

clinics was actually 11 seniors making 5 visits. He noted that 20% of the town's population are seniors or approximately 1,200-1,300 people.

Discussion continued from the prior two months meetings on whether this was an effective use of public health funds. Natalie Drew suggested cutting back on one blood pressure check and offering something else. Sue Nesci noted that public health is concerned with reaching large numbers of people at risk rather than monitoring a small number of individuals' personal health for chronic conditions. Mike Stehney, a physician, explained that the purpose of blood pressure screening was to detect unrecognized high blood pressure and refer people to their doctors for follow-up. Mike offered to go with Cathy to a March 4 Senior Club meeting to discuss the group's concerns.

Cathy asked and the committee agreed to look at services that will help seniors age in place. Mercedes Ricciuti, the town's Municipal Agent for the Elderly, will be invited to a future meeting to provide input.

Monitoring of Health Status- Opioid Crisis- Cathy and Mike attended a meeting called by Senator Chris Murphy to discuss responses to the opioid crisis. Mike noted that the current response is a patchwork. The meeting identified a need for better pathways to respond to the crisis, including referrals.

Cathy suggested that a permanent drug take back system might be an appropriate local response. She added that ongoing drug disposal is offered at police stations in Clinton, Madison and at the State Police barracks in Westbrook. It is not feasible to offer at our local state trooper's office because of limited hours. She noted that Haddam Killingworth Healthy Kids coalition is looking at possible locations.

Investigating and Diagnosing Health problems & Hazards- Herbicide- Discussion continued in response to an issue raised at the July 2017 meeting on the safety of herbicide containing glyphosates. The World Health Organization (WHO) has labeled glyphosates a probable human carcinogen. We need to further research the WHO monograph on the studies and subsequent concerns raised by environmentalist and industry.

Health Director Update Paul Hutcheon provided the following additional updates:

Monitoring of Health Status- Flu-There have been no flu cases reported to date for the town. Mike added that flu test kits have been running out

Informing, Educating, and Empowering- Flu-Paul updated the web page to list flu clinics in the area. Robin Duffield reported that Paul's release on flu clinics was sent out by the Superintendent of Schools. She suggested contacting the Superintendent's office for other health issues of concern to children and families.

Uranium/Radon - All 50 radon kits were distributed. Paul sent out a reminder to those who have not yet returned their kits for analysis. The state health department lab has analyzed 28 kits to date with levels ranging from .246 to 28.4. Four results were at levels that required action.

Assuring a public health and personal care workforce- FDA Food Code - Paul has completed 34 of the 36 training modules for the FDA Food Code. We are awaiting state regulations, forms, and the registration website for food service establishments for a July 1 implementation date.

MOTION: Ernest Pizzuto moved and Robin Duffield 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 7:55 pm. The next meeting will be March 8, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Nesci
Sue Nesci, Secretary