

Public Health Agency
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419

May 9, 2018
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Natalie Ortolí Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Mike Stehney, and Health Director Paul Hutcheon.

Members Absent: Cheryl Fine and Cathy Iino

Chair Natalie Ortolí Drew called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Minutes- The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 11th meeting.

MOTION: Betty Dennis moved and Robin Duffield seconded acceptance of the April 11th minutes. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolí Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, and Ernest Pizzuto; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Mike Stehney. The motion carried 5:0:1.

First Selectman Update - Paul Hutcheon reported that there were no updates from the First Selectman.

Health Director Update Paul Hutcheon provided the following additional updates:

Mobilize Community Partnerships- Farmers' Market- A weekly Farmer's Market during the summer months will be offered on Wednesdays, 4-6pm, beginning in June. The state agricultural department has issued guidance for farmers' markets.

Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems/Hazards- Air Bubbles Complaint- Paul investigated a complaint about air bubbles reaching the ground surface behind Dunkin Donuts in the area of the septic system. He advised the complainant that the geomatrix system has a supplied air component. Air can migrate up through the soil.

Disease Reporting- The state health department has moved disease reporting entirely online with its MAVEN reporting system. Health departments no longer receive paper reports for reportable diseases. Paul gave the example of influenza cases this year in town. While the lack of paper reports seemed to indicate no cases, MAVEN reported 20 cases.

Inform, Educate, and Empower About Health Issues -Paul sent out a press release on ticks and prevention strategies.

Enforce Laws & Regulations that Protect Health/Safety- Comcast Equipment Building- There was a question about clearing on one of two lots next to Dunkin Donuts. Paul reported that one lot will have a Comcast Equipment building on slab. The building does not require water or sewage disposal since employees are there only for short periods to check on equipment.

Develop Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health- School Restructuring- Paul reported on his follow-up with the RDS #17 Superintendent regarding any anticipated impact on septic systems from the proposed restructuring of district schools. No issues are

anticipated with the septic systems since both schools with an increase in student population will still be operating below design limits

FDA Food Code- Paul reported that there are still no regulations or forms for implementation of the FDA Food Code, originally scheduled for July. He speculated that implementation may be postponed. He noted that the FDA Food Code stresses licensing ordinances for food establishments. The town may need to adopt detailed licensing ordinances. State health districts currently have to have licensing ordinances. He advised waiting for templates from the state health department. Betty Dennis noted that changes in town ordinances will have to be approved at a future town meeting.

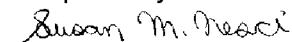
Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of health services

Paul explained the changes in the new annual report, which is due to the state health department in September. The new format uses verbiage from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards to describe how each local health department meets the 10 essential public health services. Paul noted that PHAB standards are used to accredit local public health departments. In Connecticut, there are currently three PHAB accredited departments: Norwalk, Stratford and the Naugatuck Valley Health District. He explained that the use of PHAB standards was a significant change in the state's annual report. Committee members questioned the implications for our part-time health department in light of the use of PHAB standards and the Commissioner's proposal earlier this year to merge local health departments into larger, full-time regional units. Paul noted that as a .6 fte department we will not meet certain PHAB standards, such as a strategic plan or certain policies and procedures. He speculated that the standards may be tied in the future to per capita grants.

MOTION: Ernest Pizzuto moved and Betty Dennis seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Betty Dennis, Natalie Ortolli Drew, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions :0. The motion carried 6:0:0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. The next meeting will be June 12, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue Nesci, Secretary