



# *Town of Darien*

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Director of Health

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## *Health Department*

Present – Knauf (Staff), Cunningham (Chair), Patrick, Geddes, Matthiesen

ABH Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2016

7:00 PM, Rm 213

1. **Staffing Issues & Stamford Update** – Stamford now has a full-time Health Director. However, two of our sanitarians are currently out on medical leave.
2. **DPH Consolidation Plan for Local Health Departments** – CT Commissioner of Health to meet with Association of Health Directors this week to discuss legislation to be submitted by DPH in January to consolidate Local Health Departments. No details of how this would be accomplished have been provided in advance of that meeting. This is another example of the State’s initiative to consolidate services in an effort to save money and provide “equity of services”.
3. **Health Needs Assessment Status and Health Fair Concept** – The Department is moving ahead on its needs assessment for Town with ongoing meetings with the local hospitals, DataHaven and Post 53 to identify health needs, issues and concerns in Town. The findings will be released to the public in a 3-part Health Assessment presentation in January at the Town Library. An agenda has been drafted, more information to come.
4. **Reportable Disease summary F/Y 2015-16** – The Department continues to monitor reportable diseases, the most frequently reported condition is usually influenza. However, in 2015-16, the number one reportable condition, by far are STDs, specifically Chlamydia.

5. **Flu Prevention Program** – We have, at the moment, two scheduled flu vaccination clinics scheduled for the Mather Center and two in Town Hall, one of which is the “Vote and Vax” event on Election Day. The online scheduler is still being used.
6. **Prescription Drop Box & Pharmacies Program** – David went to each pharmacy in Town, met with the Head Pharmacists to educate pharmacies that there is an unused medicine drop box at the Darien Police Department and handed out literature for each store to use.
7. **Food Protection Program Update, Rating and Proposed Fines for Not Posting** – There is an online food handling training program for food handlers. This program is in multiple languages. More than 207 people in town have taken the online course as of last month. Staff is considering a mandatory training program for facilities before they first open. The Advisory Board of Health unanimously recommends that the current grading should be changed to a letter grade, similar to that of New York City. This includes a fine for not posting grades.
8. **Beach Report from 2016 Season** – Staff sampled water once a week at Pear Tree and Weed Beaches all summer. Bacteria levels remained well below state safety standards and beaches were closed for only one day this summer due to heavy rain on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The DNA testing study for bacteria is underway and should be directly complimentary to the bacteria study of Goodwives River being undertaken by the Coastal Advisory Commission.
9. **Radon Program** – Interest in Radon Kits has declined and the Darien Health Department would like to be more progressive to use these kits. Staff will work with Planning and Zoning and the Building Departments to increase awareness of this program, including testing and reporting.
10. **Salon Inspection Reports** – All businesses offering cosmetology services in Darien (26) are inspected twice a year and inspection reports are now being posted online. The Advisory Board of Health unanimously recommends adoption of a policy of issuance of a pass/fail certificate to be posted at the location and online.
11. **Possible Bike Trails** – This idea, which has advanced through Norwalk Health Department, is to potentially involve neighboring towns including New Canaan, Norwalk, and Stamford up to Westport designating bike trails throughout the communities. Concepts regarding locations and logistics are currently in discussion.

12. **Lead Testing of School Drinking Water** – Testing of school drinking water had been conducted by the Board of Education for lead in school water in April. All tests were negative. This included test of water in drinking fountains and food prep sinks.
  
13. **Noise Complaint** – A local, ongoing noise complaint has not gone away. Remediation efforts have been made but an acoustical engineer retained by the Department has determined that noise levels continue to be above night-time noise standards.
  
14. **ZIKA Update** – There have been no reported cases of Zika or microcephaly locally.

Submitted By: Kevin M. Cunningham, Chair, Darien Advisory Board of Health 9/14/16

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