

Advisory Board of Health Meeting Minutes

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Board of Health (ABH) was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, at 7:00 pm in room 213 of Town Hall.

Members present: Dr. Jose Cara, Vice Chair; Jennifer Geddes, Mary Guimond, Clerk
Members absent: Kevin Cunningham, Chair
Guests: David Knauf, Director of Darien Health Department

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Vice Chair Cara. Minutes from meetings held on March 16 and June 2, 2010, were approved. Mr. Knauf provided a Health Department update as follows:

Unwanted Prescription Day, October 9 – Preparation is complete for Darien’s first ever medication collection day. Funding has been provided by Aquarion Water Company, Community Fund of Darien, Board of Education, Police Department, and Norwalk Hospital, among several others. Mr. Knauf has been interviewed by Channel 79. There will be a press conference as well.

Human Service Planning Council Appointment – Mr. Knauf has been appointed to this council which is part of Community Fund.

Beach Water Sampling – Good year for data gathering and a good report overall. Sound water quality is good. Problem areas appear to be Goodwives River and Gorham’s Pond. Because of the lack of rain, testing has had to be halted. Beaches were closed for two days this summer due to high rainfall. Follow-up testing indicated those closings were warranted.

Shellfish Regulation Update – All forms have been updated and will be part of the Digital Health Department system. Still awaiting Town Counsel approval of ordinance changes.

Digital Health Status – At the end of this week, first part of the system will go live involving automated issuance of permits for salons, invoicing, inspection reports, applications, etc. This is a good test of the system since restaurant permit renewals begin in December.

Flu Clinic Schedule – A press release has been issued with the schedule of flu clinics the Health Department is sponsoring this fall. Mr. Knauf reported that 450 doses of H1N1 vaccine from last year had to be destroyed.

Health Seminars – The Norwalk Hospital Foundation provides gratis educational programs related to health such as nutrition, surgical robotics, gastrointestinal issues and women’s forums. Some of these programs will be provided in conjunction with the Senior Center.

West Nile Virus/Lyme – There are very few cases of West Nile reported in Connecticut and no deaths reported in 4 years. Lyme cases are greater in number with fewer in Fairfield County than in other parts of the State. Discussion revolved around suspected under-reporting of Lyme cases and possible prophylactic antibiotic treatment of suspected Lyme disease without confirming diagnosis.

Emergency Preparedness Changes – Original consultant has finished with his work. Darien received another grant and a different consultant has been hired for additional help in this area.

Staff – Part Time Help – There is money in the budget for part time help for inspections on the weekends related to fairs and festivals at this time of year.

After his report, Mr. Knauf was excused from the meeting.

Pedestrian safety is still a major concern. Ms. Guimond mentioned that several dozen people from the Hoyt Street area presented their concerns about lack of sidewalks to the Board of Selectmen on September 7th. Vice Chair Cara has researched several surveys related to pedestrian safety and will distribute them to ABH members for comment. How to distribute these surveys to the public and tabulate results needs to be discussed at a future meeting. November 17th is the next scheduled ABH meeting.

Vice Chair Cara adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted on September 16, 2010,

Mary Guimond, Clerk