

Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Health and Safety Committee (PH&S) was held on Monday, June 8, 2009 at 7:30 pm in room B3 of Town Hall.

Members present: Carolyn Schoonmaker, Chair; Dr. Robert C. George; Susan Helms; Robert Cardone; and Mary Guimond, Clerk

Members absent: Tony Imbimbo; Susan LeHan; Sue Maguire; James Patrick; Bryan Stephens; Philip Weyhe; Penne Weicker; and Tom Valentino

Chair Schoonmaker called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. The minutes of the last regularly scheduled PH&S meeting were corrected to show the date of the meeting as April 27, 2009 instead of April 22, 2009.

Chair Schoonmaker recapped the joint meeting of June 2, 2009, referenced in the agenda. A discussion followed that reinforced the prior position of PH&S in support of the latest leash law ordinance draft, which has been amended to add the word "Commission" after "Parks and Recreation" to clarify the difference between the RTM Parks and Recreation Committee and the Town Parks and Recreation Commission. By a unanimous sense of the meeting, the members agreed that PH&S will recommend the following:

1. Certain parks, to be determined by Parks and Recreation Commission, may allow dogs off-leash during specified and posted hours of the day/evening; and,
2. A public/private arrangement may be established to create a dog run.

Ms. Guimond provided an update on activities of the Department of Health. Members said they liked that she is copying PH&S members on the minutes of the Advisory Board of Health, of which she is a member. Ms. Guimond discussed the Health Department's involvement with the Superintendent of schools related to the 22 confirmed cases of H1N1 flu as well as the updates on the flu on the Town's website. Also discussed were the activities of the Health Department's newly hired nurse, Molly Larson, in Darien's effort to become a "heart-safe" community; the hiring of an intern for the summer to test water quality in the sound; the up-to-date status of restaurant inspections and the progress in creating a public restaurant rating system.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is tentatively set for September 14, 2009.

Respectfully submitted on June 9, 2009

Mary Guimond, Clerk