



Town of Darien

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ABH meeting December 6, 2012

Attendees: Kevin Cunningham, Jose Cara, James Patrick
David Knauf, Director of Health
Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman
Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Flu Prevention Program** – The Health Department has held two open clinics and provides vaccinations by appointment through the on-line scheduler. So far this year, 180 shots have been given, compared with 380 last year. While the year is not over, the trend is clearly downward perhaps due to the fact that vaccine is more available than it used to be and public complacency since the incidence rate for flu have been low for the past two years. We will be offering free vaccinations to Post 53.
2. **Cosmetology Regulation Update** – we are currently revising the field inspection report in light of what we learned from Committee meeting held earlier in the year and on-going inspections. We will reconvene the committee once the forms are drafted and a revised regulation is ready for review this spring.
3. **Unwanted Drug Collection Day** – In partnership with the Darien Police Department, we cosponsored the 6th unwanted drug drop-off day in October and netted 152 pounds. This is a total of over 900 pounds for the six sessions.
4. **Beach report** – Water samples were collected from Pear Tree Point and Weed Beaches once a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The only time bacteria counts were elevated was after it rained so our protocol of closing beaches to swimming after an inch of rain will remain in effect. Beaches were closed for three days this summer.
5. **Community Health Needs Assessment** – Both Norwalk & Stamford Hospitals are conducting Community Health needs assessments for their service areas. Once the data is available, we can work on developing intervention strategies for preventable conditions in Darien.
6. **Whole Foods** – No reports of cooking fumes have been reported by neighbors in several months. Whole Foods management is aware of the need to address this issue if it reoccurs.

NEW BUSINESS

7. **Budget for next year** – Fees have not been raised in four years and there are No proposed fee increases at this time. There are no capital purchases planned and no budgetary increase is anticipated for the next fiscal year.

8. **Health Department Response to Sandy**- The major responsibility of the Health Department during the extended power outage was to ensure the safety of food and water. To that end, we monitored and inspected all food service facilities while they were closed and as they reopened. A survey of full service food establishments was sent to 78 facilities; 12 did not report, and of those who did, 28 did not lose power. For the 38 who responded, closure due to power outage ranged from 1 to 8 days, approximately 10,000 pounds of perishable foods valued over \$90,000 was discarded and lost revenues totaled over \$660,000. Foods could not be donated to shelters because there was no way to ensure the quality of foods coming from facilities without power or refrigeration.
9. **Emergency Preparedness** – A draft for the Health & Medical Annex to Town Emergency Operations Plan was submitted to the Board for their consideration
10. **Food Service** - Digital Health Department is being used in the field successfully. It is anticipated that this web-based tool will make information readily available to the public and decrease staff time.
11. **Initiatives with Medical Advisor** – Standardized methodology for evaluating sports injuries such as concussions and ALCS injuries was discussed for possible statewide initiative. No reporting for injuries is currently required so there is no way to assess trends.
12. **Radon** – Free test kits are now available at the Health Department offices. Testing in the winter is recommended since that is when radon levels tend to be highest.
13. **West Nile Virus Data** – The State monitors the mosquito population for the presence of West Nile Virus and has found a positive rate of 0.13% statewide. Two locations are monitored in Darien and the positive rate was 0.11%. The risk posed by West Nile Virus remains low. Discussion ensued regarding the relative attention and funding for Lyme Disease prevention.

Additional item - First Selectman Jayme Stevenson presented her thoughts on expanding the scope of the Health Department into the “Wellness” forum and suggested that we participate in developing a program for Town Employees. Another area of concern she shared with the Board is for a balanced approach to Lyme Disease prevention

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 PM
Respectfully Submitted by David Knauf