

Advisory Board of Health Meeting Minutes

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Board of Health (ABH) was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 7:00 pm in room 213 of Town Hall.

Members Present: Kevin Cunningham, Dr. Jose Cara, Jennifer Geddes and Mary Guimond

Guest: David Knauf, Director of Darien Health Department

A vote was taken to elect officers for 2011. By unanimous vote, Mr. Cunningham was voted as Chair, Dr. Cara was voted as Vice Chair, and Ms. Guimond was voted as Clerk.

Chair Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Minutes of the September 15 and November 17, 2010 meetings were approved without change or comment. Mr. Knauf provided additional comments to the Health Department Quarterly Report to the Board of Selectmen dated January 4, 2011, which is included in these minutes and incorporated herein:

Radon – While kits are available for free, there have not been many distributed as of yet.

Flu Clinics – There have been reported cases of seasonal flu in Darien. The uptake in flu shots at Town clinics has been relatively low.

Pharmajet – The Health Department will be piloting a program of needle-less injections for the next flu season.

Restaurant Ratings – A survey of 86 facilities found that the Rating document was posted as required in a conspicuous location in 60 of the restaurants, 10 were posted in an inconspicuous location and 16 were not posted. Follow-ups to ensure compliance are underway.

Unwanted Medication Collection – The Health Department is exploring a permanent method of providing residents with unwanted medication disposal via a specially designed “drop-off” box to be located at the Police Station. Mr. Cara suggested posting an information bulletin at local pharmacies announcing this option if the Health Department moves forward with obtaining the box.

At this point, Mr. Knauf was excused from the meeting.

A discussion among members ensued regarding pedestrian safety. Chair Cunningham agreed to invite Paul Johnson from the Police Commission to our next meeting to consider options. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted on January 21, 2011

Mary Guimond Clerk

Health Department
Quarterly Report to the Board of Selectmen
January 4, 2011

The following is a summary of recent Health Department activities and goals for the next couple of months:

Radon

- January is “National Radon Action Month.” The Health Department will be distributing radon test kits to residents who wish to test their homes. Kits are available now at the Health Department office and they are free.

Flu Clinics

- The Department held seven clinics and administered approximately 400 vaccinations since September. Future clinics are being discussed with the Schools.

Website

- To aid residents in securing appointments for flu shots, we have expanded our on-line services to enable on-line registration. Please see <http://darienhealth.info/>
- A direct link to the Health Department website has been established at <http://darienhealth.com/> . This will simplify access to our site where residents can download application forms, obtain useful information and soon, review “Ratings” of restaurants.

FOG

- In conjunction with the Department of Public Works, the Health Department will be embarking on a town-wide survey of all restaurants that produce FOG (Fats, Oils & Grease). This is to ensure all facilities comply with State requirements to keep these deleterious materials out of the municipal sewers where they have been causing blockages and sewer backups. Upgrades are due to be in place by July, 2011.

Reportable Diseases

- In response to a recently observed increase in the occurrence of Pertussis or “Whooping Cough,” our Medical Advisor, Caleb Moore, MD, posted a letter to

the editors in our local newspapers advocating appropriate vaccinations as well as booster shots for adults who have exposure to young children.

Digital Health Department

- It has been slow to develop but we are now field testing the restaurant inspection portion and hope to have inspection reports/ Ratings available on line within the next couple of months.

Food Service

- We continue to meet or exceed State inspection frequency requirements and continue to see overall improvement in conditions observed during those inspections. We will offer more food handler training sessions in the next few months as we continue to see further interest in food service establishments coming to Darien.

Respectfully Submitted by David Knauf
December 22, 2010