

## **Advisory Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Board of Health (ABH) was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2009, at 7:00 pm in room 213 of Town Hall.

Members present: Kevin Cunningham, Chair; and Mary Guimond, Clerk  
Members absent: Dr. Jose Cara, Vice Chair; and Jennifer Geddes  
Guests: David Knauf, Darien Director of Health  
Public: Cecilia Smith, Darien.patch.com and Channel 79 videographers

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Cunningham. On the first agenda item, Mr. Knauf reported there have been no beach closures this year due to poor water quality, only standard closures which are mandated by the State based upon amount of rainfall. Mr. Knauf advised that beach water sampling is nearly completed. He discovered water sampling records dating to 2002 and was able to engage our intern to organize, categorize and input those records along with this year's results. Mr. Knauf stated that he is very pleased with the work the intern produced which will statistically pinpoint problem areas. He plans to provide the results of the work to the Selectmen in the near future but commented on findings of high bacteria levels in Gorham's Pond that appear to impact Pear Tree Point beach.

With regard to the State Aquiculture report, Mr. Knauf stated that an addendum was provided by the State which reduced the number of followup visits for septic systems to 10 from 60 originally. No egregious problems were reported and the original report was revised. The State is increasing water sampling in Scott's Cove. Water quality in Long Island Sound out from Scott's Cove is "pretty good".

Mr. Knauf asked for assistance in setting up dates for a ceremony marking Darien's designation as a Heartsafe community. Chair Cunningham agreed to contact the First Selectwoman to do this, focusing on the last two weeks of September.

Mr. Knauf reported that communication networks are in place to facilitate planning and action in anticipation of an H1N1 outbreak in our community. Since vaccine production has been slowed and distribution will be staggered, flu clinics for H1N1 will not be possible. Vaccination will be handled by private physicians and the State may require pre-registration of providers. Mr. Knauf has drafted an informative and instructive letter to parents regarding H1N1, which will be posted on the town's website. The State protocol will be to keep schools open. For seasonal flu, Mr. Knauf is suggesting "vote and vacs" – having vaccinations for seasonal flu available at polling stations, an idea which has had success in New Canaan.

Darien's \$30,000 emergency response grant has been extended for next year. Kerry Flaherty has done a significant amount of work on the Health Department's portion of the

town's Emergency Response Plan and has prepared a draft. Chair Cunningham has agreed to review the draft and provide comments.

Mr. Knauf unveiled our new Health Department logo for stationary as well as our new restaurant rating document, both of which are in use now. The restaurant rating document is to be posted by restaurants in a conspicuous location. It is anticipated that restaurant ratings will be incorporated into a Health Department website once the department has converted to the Digital Health Department software.

Mr. Knauf addressed the recent press release regarding the finding of one mosquito that tested positive for West Nile virus in Darien. Since 2004, there have been 28 cases of the virus in Connecticut.

Mr. Knauf and Ms. Guimond agreed to meet to discuss updating the town's Health ordinances.

Chair Cunningham suggested ABH have a conference call prior to our next meeting to strategize on how we intend to begin focusing on senior issues.

The next regularly scheduled meeting, September 16, 2009 is being cancelled and will be replaced with a special meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at 7:00 pm. Room to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted on August 24, 2009

Mary Guimond, Clerk