

Advisory Board of Health Meeting Minutes

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Board of Health (ABH) was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, in room 213 at Town Hall.

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

This meeting was taped for showing on Channel 79. Darien.Patch.com editor was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Cunningham. Without comment or correction, the minutes of ABH meetings held in June, August and September were approved. Mr. Knauf reported the following:

Restaurant Ratings. Articles regarding the new restaurant ratings have been published in local papers, included on the town website, and featured in a Channel 12 report. Newspapers want to publish ratings weekly.

Heartsafe Community Follow-up. Posting of signs is proving to be difficult because of forms and permits that have to be filed. Chair Cunningham volunteered the services of ABH members to help with completion of the forms.

Ordinances. Mr. Knauf has drafted new ordinances for septic, reviewed all ordinances, updated many of them, met with town counsel along with Ms. Guimond, and will have submitted his work to town counsel within the next 2 weeks. Upon recommendation of town counsel, the ordinance related to clamming will be tackled last since it requires the most work and research. Once town counsel has finished reviewing the updated ordinances, Ms. Guimond will work with the RTM to get the changes approved.

Beach Report. Mr. Knauf completed a thorough report on water quality at Darien's beaches with the assistance of a summer intern. He has distributed the report to ABH and to the Parks and Recreation Commission and will be presenting the report to the Board of Selectmen as soon as possible. Chair Cunningham suggested that he specifically make recommendations to the Selectmen with regard to actions to improve water quality.

H1N1. To date, there has been no spike in absenteeism in Darien's schools, a report of which is sent to Mr. Knauf daily. Darien has still not received any vaccine and is taking names of people who call to be placed on a priority list. When vaccine does become available, Mr. Knauf has arranged for flu clinics in Darien to be managed by Occupational Health of Norwalk.

Emergency Preparedness Plan. Major gap in the plan is an organized way to transport people to a point of distribution (POD). Coordination with Marc McEwan, Darien's Emergency Operations Manager, will be undertaken once the preparedness plan details are finalized.

Mr. Knauf was then excused from the meeting.

Jennifer Geddes met with Beth Paris, the new director of the Senior Center and with members of the Commission on Aging to identify the most compelling senior issues and how to address them. It was determined that a series of talks be developed regarding these issues, which include:

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|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| . Patient Advocacy | . Victimization of the Elderly |
| . Nutrition | . Falls |
| . Depression | . Alzheimers |

Housing/taxes/finances

These talks will be publicized and Dr. Cara suggested they be taped by Channel 79 with the possibility of having the recordings put onto CD for continued and future use.

Chair Cunningham has not yet been able to meet with Paul Johnson from the Police Commission to discuss a campaign on pedestrian crossing safety but will do so prior to the next meeting.

Dr. Cara mentioned that the Emergency Services Committee has met and will begin assessing the current emergency services situation in Darien. He mentioned that the town does not have contracts with surrounding hospitals related to emergency care but that Post 53 does. Chair Cunningham offered to present to the Emergency Services Committee the findings contained in the March ABH report to the Board of Selectmen.

The next two regularly scheduled meetings on November 18 and December 16 are being cancelled and replaced by a special meeting to be held on December 9, 2009, with a room to be scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted on October 23, 2009,

Mary Guimond, Clerk