

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

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Board of Health (ABH) was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, in room 213 of Town Hall.

Members present: Kevin Cunningham, Chair; Dr. Jose Cara, Vice Chair; Jennifer Geddes; and Mary Guimond, Clerk

Guests: Dennis Cummings, Director of Post 53 and David Knauf, Director of Public Health for Darien

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Cunningham. First order of business was to warmly welcome the newest member to ABH, Ms. Jennifer Geddes. The minutes of the January 21, 2009 meeting were approved without change. The minutes of the March 4, 2009 meeting required a change, suggested by Mr. Knauf. The first sentence of the fourth paragraph was deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following: "The State has closed a significant portion of Scott's Cove to recreational shellfishing." The minutes of the March meeting were then approved.

The first item on the agenda was an update from the Department of Health by Mr. Knauf:

- . There will be a Lyme disease education conference at Norwalk Hospital for those on the Board interested in attending.
- . Regarding staffing, he has hired a nurse and has also hired a public health emergency preparedness coordinator through the use of a grant from the State. Dr. Cara suggested this is the grant is a milestone, the first ever given to Darien's Health Department. Previously, due to Darien's lack of a full time Health Department, such grants would have been unavailable to us.
- . Food service inspections are keeping up to date and mentioned that a restaurant training program is still being developed.
- . Along with the State Department of Aquaculture, Mr. Knauf visited many of the properties in Scott's Cove that the Department had previously not accessed. While a couple of septic systems were found to be problematic. The State mentioned that septic systems in the Scott's Cove area may be compromised simply due to size of the cove and geology that limit dilution. The State will not change its prohibition of recreational shellfishing until supported by good water quality for a sustained period of time. Notification of the shellfishing prohibition will be accomplished by the State posting notices as well as through notices from the homeowners' associations in the area, with which Mr. Knauf will assist.
- . A presentation to the Board of Selectmen will be made on April 20, requesting approval for a number of actions, including changes to lead regulations, a streamlined fee schedule and a proposed restaurant rating system, which ABH supports. Mr. Knauf asked for ABH attendance at this meeting. Ms. Guimond agreed to attend.
- . The Board of Finance appears to be supportive of the Health Department budget.

- . Work on a review of, and possible changes to, town ordinances continues.
- . Review of Farmers' Market fees and issues related to food preparation on site.
- . Website is being redesigned; forms will be on line, links to healthcare agencies created, automated rain gauges tied to the State will be implemented; and auto payment capabilities created.
- . There is no interest on the part of the Selectmen to institute a smoking ban at the town beaches.

Chair Cunningham invited members to attend an Ethics Workshop to be held on May 6, 2009, at the Library. He reviewed the items discussed after his presentation to the Board of Selectmen on ABH review of paramedic service in Darien which he made on March 23, 2009. A coordinated effort among the Department of Health, Post 53, and the American Red Cross to achieve Heart Safe Community status for Darien is being undertaken and ABH will be involved in this effort. Focus items will include education of the public on specificity when making 911 calls and recognizing signs of stroke, and the tracking, maintenance, and increased availability of AEDs throughout Darien.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted on April 20, 2009

Mary Guimond, Clerk