

Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Health and Safety Committee (PH&S) was held on Monday, September 28, 2009, in room 119 at Town Hall.

Members present: Carolyn Schoonmaker, Chair; James Patrick; Robert Cardone; Tony Imbimbo; Sue Maguire; and Mary Guimond, Clerk

Members absent: Dr. Robert C. George; Susan Helms; Susan LeHan; Bryan Stephens; Penne Weicker; Tom Valentino

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chair Schoonmaker. She advised that Philip Weyhe, who had been Vice Chair of PH&S, has resigned from the RTM. Mr. Patrick volunteered to assume those duties for the remainder of this term with the approval of the members present.

Chair Schoonmaker gave a brief overview of the status of the dog ordinance since our last meeting. Without a quorum present, the committee was not able to vote on the dog ordinance as indicated on the agenda. However, by unanimous consensus of the members present, it was decided to table the dog ordinance since it has been tabled by TGS&A because Attorney Fox determined that the Parks and Recreation Committee had to decide what they wanted to do before any other RTM committee can act on the ordinance.

With regard to the Police Headquarters building program, PH&S members confirmed our support. Chair Schoonmaker advised that she spoke to the Board of Selectmen this summer to release building funds as soon as the town deemed possible.

Ms. Guimond provided a quick update of Health Department activities based upon her membership in the Advisory Board of Health (ABH). She discussed H1N1 and seasonal flu; the installation of the Digital Health Department software by early summer 2010; restaurant inspections being up-to-date and the implementation of a restaurant rating system; water quality at the beaches and a report being compiled by David Knauf, Director of Health, for presentation to the Selectmen in the fall; Darien's HeartSafe designation by the State; emergency response grant of \$30,000 provided from the State to Darien to create an emergency plan for the Health Department; the work she and Mr. Knauf are doing to update ordinances related to the Health Department; and that the next area of focus for ABH are senior issues that we are soliciting input on from various agencies throughout town. She urged members of PH&S to review ABH meeting minutes that she has provided and will continue to provide and offered to answer any questions.

Chair Schoonmaker asked for input regarding the time of future meetings since RTM meetings now begin at 8:00 pm. When there is a PH&S vote to be taken, members felt that we should meet on a different evening than the RTM meeting to allow for discussion

and action. In addition, PH&S meetings will be scheduled to begin at 7:15 pm in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted via email on October 1, 2009,

Mary Guimond, Clerk