

RTM Public Health and Safety Committee
January 27, 2020
Darien Town Hall Room 119
MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance: Colin Kelly, Lois Schneider, Mia Handler, Susanne Handler, Penelope Wilson, Thomas Moore, Christine Castles, Olive Hauser, Brian Rayhill, Laura Mosher, Sara Parent, Mac Patrick, Virginia Jijon-Caamano

Committee Members Absent: Holly Giordano, Jennifer Woodbury, Edgar Hawkins, Jim Cameron

One member of the public (Laurie Wigglesworth) was in the audience.

PH&S Chair 'Mac Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Committee members reintroduced themselves to the group.

The committee approved the minutes of the October 21, 2019 PH&S meeting.

Mr. Patrick introduced David Knauf, the Darien Director of Health. He presented and updated on the current activities of the Darien Health Department and discussed the latest quarterly report to the Board of Selectmen.

The committee discussed Coronavirus. Mr. Knauf shared the town's press release of January 27, 2020. There are currently two cases of interest in CT. Much is unknown about this virus. Members of the committee asked questions about who is at risk and how to avoid the virus. Mr. Knauf shared that the incubation period is unclear which makes it challenging. He also said humans have no natural immunity. Currently there are no drugs and no vaccine for the Coronavirus.

To date, there is not an extraordinary number of flu cases in town. The number of flu shots given by the town remains consistent over the past 5 years.

Mr. Knauf talked about Darien's Food Protection Program. There are approximately 150 facilities in town that are inspected regularly. All inspection reports are on the town website. Recent changes to this program include a \$100 fee from the town if the facility does not publicly post their rating. Mr. Knauf said that the town website has food handling lessons online in multiple languages. Mrs. Parent asked if the two new developments in town would require more inspectors. Mr. Knauf suggested that would not be an issue, but until all space is rented, it remains a possibility.

Topics also discussed were salon inspections, vaping, EEE and ticks.

The committee discussed concerns of some residents pertaining to the busing of Darien High School students. Mrs. Parent explained that there is a 2 mile radius for DHS, a 1 mile radius for MMS and gave a brief synopsis of the issue at hand. Data is being collected by the Darien police department to analyze the safety of the walkers, particularly along Noroton Avenue. Once that data is available, the Board of Education may choose to re-examine their policy around transportation.

It was stated by multiple members that this is not just a Board of Education issue and the town needs to be brought into this discussion, as there are sidewalk and lighting concerns, as well as traffic issues to think about.

Mac Patrick adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sara Parent