

## Minutes

### Board of Health Minutes

April 24, 2023 via ZOOM

Present: Joel Muhlbaum, Esq., Chair; Danielle Goodwin, DDS; Lauren O'Keefe, APRN, FNP-BC; Sarah Gamble, D.O.; Sarah Madden, Maryann Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus, Anne Fountain

Staff: Caroline C. Baisley, Director of Health; Michael Long, Director of Environmental Services; Kristin Donlin RS, Environmental Health Supervisor; Debora Edwards, Operations Administrator; Deborah C. Travers, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC Director of Family Health

Presenters: Deborah C. Travers, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, Director of Family Health  
Dr. Sarah Gamble, Chair of Board of Health Subcommittee on Gasoline Operated Leaf Blowers  
Caroline C. Baisley, Director of Health

The ZOOM Meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Joel Muhlbaum, Esq. at 6:30 pm

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the March 27, 2023 meeting were presented. Motion to accept the minutes as submitted were approved and accepted. **(Motion: O'Keefe / Second: Madden Vote: 6 in favor – 0 opposed -1 absentee)**

Joel Muhlbaum, Esq. Board Chair noted that the scheduled meeting of the Board was not a public hearing and questions from the public will not be entertained. Set items on the agenda included Dr. Sarah Gamble, Chair of the Board's Subcommittee on Gasoline Operated Leaf Blowers will make a report. There will not be a formal recommendation made by the Subcommittee on the subject matter and the full Board will not vote. Questions on this item can be sent to the Department of Health's email mailbox- ehealth@greenwichct.org.

## **Family Health Update: Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Food Program**

**(WIC):** Presenter Deborah Travers, Director of Family Health

- The Family Health Customer Service goal (2022-23) is to increase awareness about WIC and to revitalize participation in the WIC (Women, Infant and Children) nutrition program by eligible Greenwich residents.
- Family Health staff created a survey to assess the understanding of Greenwich residents about the WIC program in general and to determine barriers to participation that might account for the decreased enrollment since 2019 and during the height of the public health emergency COVID 19 pandemic when Food Assistance programs saw increased demand. Surveys distributed to various parent and client groups, service providers as well as WIC participants and non-participants.
- Three challenges noted: 1) Location/transportation to Stamford, 2) Poor communication and 3) the Application process.
- Mrs. Travers provided an overview of the WIC program and eligibility requirements and outlined other Food Assistance programs in Greenwich with data about CT Dept of Social Service benefits received by Greenwich residents (e.g.: SNAP, Medicaid).
- Family Health staff is working with Optimus/WIC Stamford to change the current delivery of services out of Stamford only (since 3/2020) and move toward revitalizing the WIC clinic site in Greenwich.
- Public health nurses are available to assist residents with information about WIC and the application process. WIC Information section added to Department of Health, Family Health webpage.

## **Board of Health Subcommittee Report on Gasoline Operated Leaf Blowers:**

Presenter Dr. Sarah Gamble, Subcommittee Chair

- Subcommittee was formed to determine if there was a change warranted to the existing Noise Ordinance based on the noise produced by gasoline operated leaf blowers.
- The Subcommittee is not ready to make a recommendation at this time to the full Board based on the merits of Quiet Yards Greenwich (QYG's) proposal and submitted material.
- The Subcommittee up until this point concentrated on the matter of noise and not air pollutants. At the February 27, 2023 scheduled Board of Health Meeting, QYG presenters focused heavily on air pollutants emissions and not noise.
- Air pollutants from the use of gasoline operator leaf blowers require further investigation by the subcommittee prior to making a recommendation to the full Board.
- The Subcommittee as a whole believes the landscaping community should be given the opportunity to make a presentation or offer comments on the changes which are being proposed.
- More work still needs to be done by the subcommittee and landscapers have a right to be heard like QYG. Before the Subcommittee makes a recommendation to the Board this should be done. Once the Subcommittee makes a recommendation the full Board will be able to vote.
- There are three options that the subcommittee is going to consider before they make a recommendation. The 3 options to choose from are:

Option 1: Change the existing Noise Ordinance is not warranted and no further consideration will be taken up by the Board.

Option 2: Change to the existing Noise Ordinance is warranted based upon findings of well-grounded scientific data providing medical evidence of health risks to the population specifically associated with gasoline operated leaf blower use.

Option 3: Change to the existing Noise Ordinance should be considered to further reduce general noise levels in the community.

Board of Health Chair In agreement directed the Director of Health, Caroline C. Baisley, to contact Landscaping Community to make a comment or presentation at the next Board of Health scheduled meeting.

**COVID-19 Update:** Presenter Caroline C. Baisley, Director of Health

- A total of 17,732 reported COVID cases have been received since the pandemic started.
- The President is ending the Public Health Emergency Act on May 11,2023, which means many changes including funding. The number of cases will still be watched carefully.
- CDC put the US on watch for the new Omicron subvariant, Arcturus that just came from India. This subvariant affects people differently with symptoms of itchy, red eyes and conjunctivitis.
- To date 6.9 million people worldwide have died from COVID-19 with 1.1 million death occurring in the U.S. For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began in December 2019, there were no reported COVID-19 deaths this week in Connecticut.

**Other Business:** None

Chair, Joel Muhlbaum announced next scheduled meeting of the Board on May 22, 2023.

**Motion to adjourn requested at 7:25 pm by Chair Joel Muhlbaum, Esq.  
(Motion: O’Keefe / Second: Ramos) (7 in favor - 0 opposed)**

Minutes prepared by, Debora Edwards. Operations Administrator 4/28/2023