MINUTES
Board of Health Meeting
April 27, 2015

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Andrew Bronin; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Julia Chiappetta; Caroline C. Baisley, Director

Absent: Dr. Michael Franco; Kurt Schaffir

Guests: Dan Warzoha, Emergency Management Director

Staff: Ann Augustine; Michael Long; Doug Serafin

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 30, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.
(Motion: Bronin / Second: Chiappetta / Vote: – 5 in favor - 0 opposed)

UPDATE: LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Dan Warzoha, Emergency Management Director, reported that he is focusing on major areas of emergency management:

- A tabletop emergency preparedness exercise was held with Board of Education staff and school principals at the Police Safety Complex. The exercise was also attended by Police, Fire and GEMS personnel. He noted that the exercise introduced three potential problems to handle:

  1. A boiler explosion at Central Middle School
  2. Rollover of a propane delivery truck on Lower Cross Road near Parkway School
  3. A partial building collapse in North Mianus

The exercise was a good way to involve school staff and it went well. Mr. Warzoha noted that a much larger school-oriented drill is being planned for the fall which would include Health Department participation.

- Region I met to develop a comprehensive three-year training exercise which would be school based and would involve public health participation.

- Training on the Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV), which contains $650,000 –$700,000 in communication equipment to supplement operations, has been ongoing. The vehicle is secured in the Police Safety Complex garage.

- Emergency Management Performance Grant funds for 2014 will be allocated for use for three local training exercises.
Discussion ensued about the importance of involving the Department of Health in exercises, school emergency plans, allocation of funding for emergency planning and the need to keep staff up-to-date on procedures and training. Chairman thanked Mr. Warzoha for his report.

WELL WATER TESTING PROMOTION

Mr. Serafin, Laboratory Director, stated that the purpose of the well water testing promotion was twofold: to educate private well water owners about the importance of testing their well water, to encourage residents to test their well water and to promote the well water testing services of the laboratory. The promotion was primarily implemented by a mailing to all well water owners in Greenwich. The mailing was timed to coincide with National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 8-14, 2015; funded through a state grant and assembled by ABILIS of Greenwich. The mailing consisted of state of Connecticut publication # 24 Private Drinking Water in Connecticut: Well Water Testing; a cover letter stressing importance of regularly testing well water and information about Greenwich Laboratory fee testing services and a list of other testing labs in the state.

Seventy-five customers have responded to the mailing so far, requesting about 240 water tests. This program should increase the laboratory’s revenue.

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Connecticut Department of Public Health “Lead, Radon and Healthy Homes” Program offers annual grants to all health departments in the state for the purpose of lead poisoning prevention education. The funds are then distributed to local health departments or health districts according to the number of elevated blood lead levels reported during the previous year. Greenwich was awarded a grant and participated in this program, implementing two different activities:

1. Family Nutrition Night (in conjunction with the Department of Social Services) at the Byram Archibald Neighborhood Center (BANC). Nancy Ryan, a registered dietitian who specializes in nutrition, was hired to teach a class to the parents of the after-school program on the importance of nutrition that will help protect children against lead poisoning. In addition, sources of lead were discussed. During the educational class, the BANC staff led the children in activities involved nutrition education. The program concluded with a light dinner being provided.

2. A lead information mailing was sent to the owners of houses that were built before 1978, when the use of lead-based paint was discontinued. The list of homeowner properties was provided by the Town’s Tax Assessor’s office. The purpose of the mailing was to make homeowners aware that house renovation operations, particularly sandblasting, are subject to regulation if there is a chance that lead can become airborne. The major part of this mailing was to provide the EPA’s brochure “Renovate Right.” Approximately 1,000 packets were sent out, starting with the oldest homes.

Additionally, the program includes sending letters to the pediatricians in Town, reminding them of the state requirement that all children must be tested for lead twice before reaching the age of six. The state’s “Lead and Healthy Homes” staff has indicated that, statewide, the second blood lead test is
often not being done. The letters also reminded the doctors of the lead testing capabilities of the Greenwich Department of Health Laboratory. The laboratory can test paint chips, ceramics and water for lead content and can perform blood lead testing as well. Brief discussion ensued and Chairman thanked Mr. Serafin for his report.

SAFETY MEASURES TAKEN IN CREATING COS COB PARK

Mr. Long noted that the Town of Greenwich completed remediation and redevelopment of the former Cos Cob Power Plant property and opened the Cos Cob Park on March 26, 2015. He reported that several phases of investigation were conducted at the site from approximately 1988 to 2004. Contaminants in the soil identified were metals related to coal ash (arsenic), PCBs and asbestos-containing materials. The soil impacted by PCBs and petroleum were removed and disposed of according to regulations as part of the remediation. Needed soil for the redevelopment was approved by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) and was delivered to the site and used to install an earthen cap across the site. The 9 acre park space includes a synthetic turf field, extensive landscaping, walking paths and public areas. The Department of Parks and Recreation will operate and maintain the Cos Cob Park. Brief discussion about the park ensued and Mr. Long stated that in his professional opinion the site is safe for use.

OTHER BUSINESS

Byram Pool: Mr. Long reported that the proposed new Byram Pool construction is currently on hold and the Town is requesting a range in design options in order to determine the final cost of the pool.

New Lebanon School: Mr. Long reported that the Greenwich Public Schools is working with the Departments of Health, Parks and Recreation and Public Works to evaluate the arsenic contamination found on the baseball field adjacent to the school. Twenty soil samples were tested and six came back as elevated. As a precautionary measure, the area of the site containing arsenic levels above the exposure criteria level was fenced off for public use. Additional analysis of the soils present at the site will be performed to define the areas that exceed the exposure criteria level and identify steps necessary to fully open the field to the public. Brief discussion ensued about the contamination at New Lebanon School and other areas of Town.

School Health Nursing Supervisor: Dr. Ross Cahn noted that she inquired about the Board of Education making the School Nursing Supervisor Position a part-time position. In response to Dr. Ross Cahn's inquiry at a recent RTM district meeting she was told by a BET member that the position was made into a part-time position for the 2015-2016 fiscal year as a cost saving measure. Brief discussion about the importance of a full-time position ensued.

Town Services Committee: Dr. Ross Cahn stated that she is an alternate member of the RTM Town Services Committee and she Chaired its GEMS Sub-committee. GEMS will present their 2015-2016 budget at the Town Services Committee and she supports their budget.
**Melanoma Awareness Program:** Dr. Bronin conducted a pilot melanoma awareness program at a large body care facility in Town on Thursday, April 23, 2015. Director Baisley stated that it was interesting and very well attended. The next step will be to offer a Townwide program.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Bronin moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:40 PM.

*(Motion: Bronin/ Second: Chiappetta /Vote: Unanimous - 5 in favor - 0 opposed)*

Respectfully submitted,

\[Signature\]

Marilyn Ross Cahn, M.D.
Secretary Pro Tem