

DRAFT - Subject to Board of Health Approval

MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

October 26, 2020

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

Present : Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Andrew Bronin; Lauren O’Keefe, APRN, FNP-BC;
Vick Sandhu, Esq.; PA-C, MPH, Maryann Ramos;

Absent: Dr. Sarah Gamble; Ann Fountain

Guests: Patricia Sesto, Environmental Affairs Director; Daniel Warzoha, Emergency Management Director

Staff: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health; Joanna Lipson, Operations Administrator; Deborah Travers,
Director of Family Health; David Fraszka, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator

Chairman called the meeting to order at 06:30 PM

Drought Update

Ms. Sesto offered the following update:

- Town officials have been meeting with Aquarion Water Company for the last several weeks to discuss reservoir levels.
- Two weeks ago, it was decided that the Town needs to move to the “trigger three” of water conservation initiative, which mandates that Aquarion customers stop watering lawns and implement other household conservation measures.
- The Greenwich reservoir is currently at 36% as compared to 26% at this time during the 2016 drought.
- Since the “trigger three” alert went into place, the water demand in Town decreased by 4 million gallons.
- Further restrictions may be placed by the Board of Selectmen, as per the Town Charter and recommendation from the multidisciplinary team.

Local Emergency Management Update

Mr. Warzoha offered the following update:

- Due to damages caused by the tropical storm Isaias, the State of Connecticut applied for a federal disaster declaration, which should be signed within a week.
- In Greenwich, Isaias caused as much damage in the Town of Greenwich as the tropical storm Irene in 2011.
- The response from the power and telecommunication companies was very inefficient and some issues are still unresolved as of today.
- A storm response report is being finalized and will be released shortly by the Office of the First Selectman.
- The Town continues weekly COVID-19 response meetings to discuss response activities and issues.
- The upcoming implementation of the 5G technology is expected to significantly improve communication during emergency response.
- The emergency sheltering operations may be an issue during the pandemic, as space is limited. In some jurisdictions, the American Red Cross placed individuals in hotels in order to ensure social distancing measures.

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Chairman commented that the Town of Greenwich needs a Memorandum a of Understanding (MOU) with the American Red Cross to ensure assure availability of services in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Update-Drive-Thru Vaccination Clinic

Mr. Fraszka offered a following update:

- The operation plans for the influenza vaccination clinics this year were significantly different due to the pandemic and the need for social distancing.
- The first clinic was specifically designed for the Town employees. This clinic took place outside, at the back of the town hall, with all necessary infection control and social distancing measures in place.
- The second clinic took place at the Easter Greenwich Civic Center, which was a public clinic, specifically designed to accommodate the Town's senior population. During this clinic, two separate vaccinations areas were used in order to increase social distancing and expedite the entire process, limiting the time spend inside the facility.
- The last clinic was a drive- thru clinic which took place at the Island Beach parking lot. This clinic also served as a full-scale exercise to test clinic plans, which may potentially be used during the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.
- The drive-thru clinic required an online preregistration; however, contingency plan allowed for individuals to register at the site.
- All clinics required assistance from other departments, especially, Parks and Receptions, Department of Public Works, and Police Department.
- The Greenwich Medical Reserve Corps volunteers played a significant role in the clinic operations.
- The After-Action Report will be distributed to the members of the Board when it is completed.

The approval of the September 29 meeting was tabled for the next Board meeting on November 26.

Other Business

Chairman commended the Director of Health and her staff for the pandemic response efforts as well as Ms. Baisley's assistance and collaboration with Greenwich public and private schools. He also asked the Director to provide a brief update on the current COVID-19 situation.

Ms. Baisley offered the following update:

- The Department of Health will be receiving COVID- 19 funding from the federal government, which will be appropriated by the CT Department of Public Health. The grant is specifically designed to increase response capacity by hiring additional staff.
- The case number in the Town is steadily increasing, which is a cause for concern, as other Towns within Fairfield County are experiencing significant increases.
- The Director of Health provides COVID-19 updates to the Town Administration regularly.

Chairman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM.

(Motion: Ramos / Second: Sandhu/Vote: Unanimous; 3-in favor, 0 abstentions)

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Ramos, Secretary