

MINUTES
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 13th, 2021 —10:00 A.M.
Via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

Zachary Faiella, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

In Attendance: Zachary Faiella- Chairman, Senior Center Director- Courtney Burks, Clerk/Assistant Senior Center Director- Amber Shaw, Fire Department- Catherine Winingar, Library Director- Timothy Kellogg, Jill Brainerd- Facilities, John Riggio- Public Works, Stephen Pendl- Risk Management Consultant – CIRMA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kellogg made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Winingar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

GENERAL COVID-19 UPDATE

Mr. Faiella reported the following: The cumulative number of cases since the pandemic began in Westbrook is 517, per the State Daily Data Report. Up until the morning of July 13th there were no cases in Westbrook since May 20th. Mr. Faiella received 3 new positive cases on July 13th. These will be investigated, currently the Health Department does not have any information on the individuals, such as if they have been vaccinated or where the infections originated from.

There continues to be good vaccinations rates in Westbrook, along with the lower-Middlesex County area of CT. Almost 71% of Westbrook residents, all ages, have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

The State of CT eased all business restrictions. Currently the only restriction/ executive order in place is to continue wearing a mask indoors if you're unvaccinated. Town Hall visitors are informed of this at all entrance doors and signs throughout the building.

CDC and FDA are in discussion as to whether vaccine booster shots are going to be necessary in the near future. Once the Health Department gets this data, Mr. Faiella will issue some notice to the community. Still, only those 12 years of age and older are eligible for the vaccine. The Health Department will work closely with the School System when more information is known for the under 12 age group. Again, when the Health Department gets more information, a press release will be issued to the community.

The Covid-19 Policy for Town Hall is still in progress. Guidance keeps evolving with this virus and the Policy continues to be updated. Mr. Faiella encourages all employees to continue to reach out to him for Covid-19 guidance.

FALLS PREVENTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Faiella invited Ms. Burks to give an update about the Falls Prevention Programs that began again in May as the Senior Center reopened. Ms. Burks's report is as follows: Currently the Senior Center has two Falls Prevention Programs. One on Tuesday and Thursday Morning, and one on Tuesday afternoons. The Falls Prevention Program that Ms. Burks leads on Tuesdays and Thursdays has anywhere from 28-34 people attending daily. The Tuesday afternoon Better Balance Class, ran by Select Physical Therapy, has approximately 15 people attending. There is a big interest in fall prevention, especially after the pandemic. A lot of people did report a decline in their physical abilities. Some falls were reported. Mostly, attendees report being extremely deconditioned. However, Ms. Burks reported seeing great gains in just the two months the Senior Center has been open. More fall prevention programs will be starting in October.

REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES

- Senior Center: Ms. Burks reported the Senior Center has been open since May 17th, following CDC guidelines. There have been no issues with COVID and visitors following guidelines.
- Health Department: Most of report given above in Covid Update. The Department continues to stay busy with septic inspections, soil testing, and restaurant inspections.
- Library: Mr. Kellogg reported the library is fully open; back to pre-covid hours. The library is following guidelines for meetings closely, requiring physical distancing and requesting masks.
- CIRMA: Mr. Pendl reported they are back in field: completing assessments, inspections, and anything needed in the field. CIRMA has been offline for about 18 months with a lot of the municipalities. Mr. Pendl encouraged employees to reach out with any needs. Classes are happening in-person again, CIRMA also has the e-learning, and new webinars. New webinars are in progress to make it easier for people to attend.
- Public Works, Fire Department, & Facilities: nothing to report.

SAFETY REPORT

Mr. Pendl reported the webinars are all on the CIRMA home-page. CIRMA has pre-recorded a lot of them and continue to do more. Employees should be getting e-alerts for the webinars. Mr. Pendl gave examples of current webinars including sexual harassment, cleaning and sanitizing. Mr. Faiella will review the webinars and send them to employees as needed.

REVIEW OF CLAIMS

Nothing to Report.

OLD BUSINESS

The Blood Born Pathogen Policy and Hazard Communication Program have been updated. No further edits were suggested by the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pendl explained CIRMA can do a claims review for the last 5 years and show trending. CIRMA must do an update. Mr. Pendl requested to schedule a presentation within the next two months either by ZOOM or in-person, whichever is preferred. Mr. Pendl will send an email outlining the "Stewardship".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kellogg made a motion to adjourn at 10:23 AM. Ms. Winger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Shaw - Clerk