

**Worksite Safety and Health Committee
December 12, 2019**

Present: Assistant to Selectmen Maria Lucarelli, Maintenance Supervisor Tom Fitzgerald, Teacher Representative Deb Minor, Director of Health and Emergency Management Deputy Lisa Fasulo, Director of Facilities Leigh Rankin, Cafeteria Supervisor Melissa Scarfo, Essex Elementary School Principal Jennifer Tousignant, Lieutenant Paul Kenefick, Fire Marshal John Planas, Fire Chief Aron Schumacher, and Director of Public Works Ryan Welch.

Lisa Fasulo called the meeting to order at 7:54 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion was made by John Planas to approve the agenda. Lisa Fasulo seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion was made by John Planas to approve the September 5, 2019 minutes. Paul Kenefick seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Paul Kenefick reported the Officers doing traffic control in construction zones are aware of the concerns of Essex residents at not being able to see clearly see hand signals due to either sun glare blocking their view, or just not being able to clearly see the hand signals. Paul reported the police are looking into purchasing high visibility gloves. Drivers also need to pay attention and slow down in work zones. It is always best and safer to stop and wait than to keep moving through the construction zone, especially if you cannot see hand signals clearly. There was further discussion of educating residents on construction zone driving etiquette.

NEW BUSINESS:

John Planas reported there are a lot of things going on in the Fire Marshal's office. Recently the Town assisted East Haddam in a search and rescue using the Town drone to look for and locate a 13-year-old male who went missing for two days in 18°-degree weather. He was eventually found and is home safe.

There was discussion of implementing a program called Project Lifesaver <https://projectlifesaver.org/> for patients with cognitive disorders who are prone to wander. There is a cost involved, but John is working on a grant.

John reported he is doing a safety radio show on ICRV called 911:411 Emergency Information.

There was discussion of the potential of Lithium Ion batteries causing fires and the importance of safe disposal of these batteries. They can be collected during a Household Hazardous Waste Collection and should be disposed of properly. The schedule can be found at <https://rivercog.org/hhw.html>

Jennifer Tousignant personally thanked Chief Aron Schumacher and the Essex Fire Department No. 1 for coming to the school in October and doing a program with the students. Jennifer said she would like to meet with the Chief and firefighters came in and discussion of doing two programs next time.

Jen reported the school continues to have fire and lock down drills. There will also be a Social Emotional Wellness meeting in January. Staff is being trained by ALICE. The training is to help staff make logical and informed decisions. Recently there was a parent ALICE informational training session held in the evening.

Jen also reported the school have a new visitor scanning system in place. You must bring in your driver's license for the system to scan and an ID is printed and must be worn by all visitors during their visit and returned to the school at the end of their visit.

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Jen mentioned that Tom Fitzgerald has done a great job keeping the school clear of any icy conditions on the sidewalks and driveways.

Melissa Scarfo had nothing to report except that the cafeteria always gets a score of 96 or above, which is excellent scoring.

Deb Minor reported there were no teachers concerns.

Leigh Ranking had nothing new to report.

Paul Kenefick mentioned that the Town has a new Resident Trooper Mark Roberts. Trooper Roberts is looking into holding an active aggressor training in Town Hall for all employees on how to address an active aggressor and to learn about techniques.

Paul thanked Ryan for the use of the town snowplow trucks as barricades during the Ivoryton Illuminations last weekend. It made the area safe for the attendees.

Ryan Welch reported that public works is always very busy. They are working with a lot of contractors and the Town is responsible for their safety and conforming with OSHA responsibilities. They too worry about speeding cars and workers on the roadways.

Ryan reported he also holds quarterly safety meetings with the public works crew and contractors, so everyone is on the same page.

One major concern Public Works personnel have is the task of educating people to be safe, especially in the winter, and to wear reflective clothing. People need to be visible, especially at night, and should not run in black clothing. Although most people do wear reflective clothing, the trucks have a hard time seeing people jogging in black clothing.

Maria Lucarelli reported there is a Freedom of Information Training (FOI) being held at the Essex Town Hall on Thursday January 16th from 8 am to 10 am. Click here to register http://cirma.ccm-ct.org/Plugs/workshops_FOIALiab_011620.aspx

Tom Fitzgerald requested an old Fire Department hose for a project he was working on in the school.

Aron Schumacher had nothing new to report.

Lisa Fasulo reminded everyone to get their flu shots. Lisa also asked the school nurse to contact her if there is any increase in absences.

There was discussion of promoting signing up for Town Newsletters. The Town Online Services and to sign up: <https://www.essexct.gov/home/pages/online-services>

2019 Worksite Safety and Health Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion was made by John Planas to approve the 2019 Worksite Safety and Health Committee Meeting Schedule. Leigh Rankin seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Tom Fitzgerald to adjourn at 8:31 a.m. Lisa Fasulo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli