

Worksite Safety and Health Committee
March 3, 2022

Present: Director of Health and Emergency Management Director Lisa Fasulo, Maintenance Andrew Harrington, Teacher Representative Deborah Minor, Fire Chief Andrew Kressley, CIRMA representative Jeff Joseph, Assistant to Selectmen Maria Lucarelli, Park and Recreation Director and Social Services Representative Mary Ellen Barnes, EES Maintenance Supervisor Tom Fitzgerald, Officer J. Paul Kenefick, Public Works Director Ryan Welch, and EES Principal Jennifer Tousignant.

Lisa Fasulo called the meeting to order at 7:46 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion was made by Andrew Harrington to approve the agenda. Andrew Kressley seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion was made by Andrew Kressley to approve the December 2, 2021 minutes. Andrew Harrington seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Jeff Joseph from CIRMA reminded everyone to keep a high awareness of the ice on the sidewalks to prevent any slips and falls.

Jennifer Tousignant reported that everything is going well at the school and masks are now optional. There was discussion of when will the other Covid mitigations be removed, such as the dividers in the cafeteria or the shields on desks in classrooms. Hopefully there will not be any uptick in illness. There are still a few students that are still wearing masks and approximately 15% of staff are still wearing their masks. All students are being nice to one another.

Lisa Fasulo reported the Department of Public Health stated that everyone can still wear masks, or not, if they so choose.

Tom Fitzgerald had nothing new to report.

Ryan Welch had no injuries to report, and the crew is doing well.

Mary Ellen reported that Park and Recreation hibernated for the winter and had a successful basketball season that just wrapped up. She also reported the Essex Go Bragh parade is happening in two weeks on Saturday, March 19th stepping off at the Essex Town Hall at 10 am. They are also looking forward to spring and summer camp. Camp starts on June 20th and ends on August 5th. The hours are 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Fridays will be at Grove Street Park. Mary Ellen mentioned there is still a scholarship program and registration is open.

Mary Ellen mentioned that there has been an uptick in energy assistance, and they work directly with the State of Connecticut, which is very backed up now. Social Services has distributed gift and food cards.

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Social Services is also working with Selectman Stacia Libby on a mental health program and addressing the ongoing need because of the pandemic.

Chief Andrew Kressley reported the Fire Department is putting the boat back in the water on Saturday and will keep it at the Essex Yacht Club for now.

Deb Minor had nothing new to report from the teachers and thanked Tom Fitzgerald for a great job keeping the school sidewalks clear for everyone.

Andrew Harrington reported that as Town Hall opens, everyone is excited about coming back to in-person meetings. The conference rooms and auditorium are high in demand.

Office Paul Kenefick reported he is attending today's meeting on behalf of Trooper Mark Roberts. Paul reported there have been ongoing investigations pertaining to internet and banking fraud. The police saw a fair number of mental health committals this winter. Paul reported the police department is in the final phase of a fourth part time hire and there is an additional midnight shift being added. The police have been dealing with petty larcenies in commercial properties. The police are also planning on placing their boat in the water earlier this year and there will be training. The police union is working on a couple of projects with public works. There is a nice patio and fire pit being installed at Sunset Pond and there are plans for a gazebo to be installed there as well.

Maria Lucarelli reported there is a report of one slip and fall and recently an officer was hurt when restraining someone. Both incidents were reported to CIRMA.

Health Director Lisa Fasulo said anyone can continue to wear a mask if they choose, especially if they are compromised. There was discussion that if a school sports team goes to another school, then all teams need to abide with the school's protocols. Covid cases in town are going down and hospitalizations are low. The vaccination rate in our community is high.

Emergency Management Director Lisa Fasulo reported winter was not too bad this year. There were some power outages and responders worked on the scene to restore power as quickly as possible so there were no long power outages. There was discussion of an increase in cyber threats via emails. Jeff reported that CIRMA has some great resources for end users. The cyber training creates awareness on what not to do, etc. He will send out information. Officer Kenefick suggested always following up with a phone call or text to confirm information in email is accurate.

John Planas was unable to attend today, but the link for the new program, Community Connect, that allows for business owners and residents to log onto a safe and secure web site to add information on their home or business is <https://www.essexct.gov/fire-marshal/bulletins/essex-community-connect>

Motion was made by Maria Lucarelli to adjourn at 8:15 a.m. Andrew Harrington seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Next Safety Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2nd, 2022 at 7:45 am via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Maria Lucarelli