

**Worksite Safety and Health Committee
December 3, 2020**

Present: Assistant to Selectmen Maria Lucarelli, Director of Health and Emergency Management Director Lisa Fasulo, Fire Marshal John Planas, Park and Recreation Director Mary Ellen Barnes, Teacher Representative Deborah Minor, Essex Elementary School Maintenance Supervisor Tom Fitzgerald, Resident State Trooper Mark Roberts, EES Principal Jennifer Tousignant, Fire Chief Aron Schumacher, CIRMA Risk Management Consultant Stephen Pendl.

Lisa Fasulo called the meeting to order at 7:51 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion was made by Lisa Fasulo to approve the September 3, 2020 minutes. John Planas seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

John Planas reported that we are coming into the winter season. John reported he recently sent out information regarding holiday decoration safety. John also reminded everyone to keep exhaust vents clear to avoid toxic build up in houses. John also mentioned that he has been doing talks on ICRV Radio about safety. There are over 2 million listeners. John said that he received boxes and boxes of batteries, so he set up a table with smoke detector and the batteries at the Halloween drive through and gave out free batteries to everyone and reminded everyone to replace their smoke detector batteries.

Deb Minor reported she is speaking with teachers at the school and the biggest concern is being in school during this pandemic. Another teacher concern is where are educators going to fall on the vaccination schedule and teachers have concerns about getting the vaccine and getting vaccinated safely. Deb mentioned they are on the front lines in a contained space with a lot of kids.

Jennifer Tousignant reported she had nothing to report and no winter weather concerns at this time. Jen reported the maintenance staff is working very hard at keeping the building clean and sterile and doing an excellent job. The school is a safe zone. Kids are doing a great job and wearing their masks.

Jennifer reported the school is still in remote mode until at least Friday. The superintendent will decide on when to open, or not to open.

Tom Fitzgerald reported he has no issues now. All custodians are safe and not sick.

Steve Pendl thanked everyone for doing a tremendous job. Steve mentioned that CIRMA is doing a Town Property Assessment. Steve also reported there is information on the CIRMA web site on COVID, information on workers compensation and webinar series that can be found on their education page. All classes can be done online through these webinars. There is a "slip, trips, and falls" webinar in preparation for the winter weather. Everyone should try and raise awareness to reduce slip and fall injuries.

Aron Schumacher reported the department is scaling back and cancelling all their in-person events. The fire department is doing a holiday drive by. Aron did report that one fire department member contracted Covid and is at home recovering.

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Lisa Fasulo thanked the fire department for assisting with traffic control in Centerbrook during a power outage that lasted for 5 hours. It was a rainy and dark night and awful weather and the Essex Fire Department put out their light tower in a bad intersection to keep it safe for drivers.

Mary Ellen reported the Essex Town Hall greeter will continue indefinitely at this point. Mary Ellen reported that Park and Recreation has cancelled basketball because it was considered a high-risk sport. Park and Recreation is concentrating on adding more twinkle to Essex and asking everyone to put lights up. The Town Hall will also be getting more lights this year. We are working on lighting up the Tri-Town area and to encouraging people to decorate with lights.

Mark Roberts reported that everyone should be vigilant because the holidays bring out scammers and there are a lot of reports of non-traditional delivery trucks this year. Companies are using door dash, which are individuals working for large companies and delivering packages in their personal vehicles. Mark also reported that telephone scams have increased, and everyone should be very careful what you put up on your social media sites because people are always watching.

Mark also reported that vehicles in Town are still being gone through at night. This is an ongoing issue. People are coming into town during the overnight hours and looking for unlocked vehicles. Remember to lock your cars and hide your valuables. They try the handle – if car is locked – they move on. So, lock your car!

There was discussion of increasing the email distribution of the Town Newsletter and encouraging people to sign up for the Town's Constant Contact. Jen asked that the link be sent to her to distribute in the next Elementary School Bulletin.

Lisa Fasulo reported that hurricane season has ended, and the winter storm season is starting. Emergency operation plans are still in place and sheltering operation plans are also in place. Lisa reported one case of flu was reported to the health department. Remember to wear you mask, socially distance, and wash your hands. People must stay home if they are sick. Now that the vaccine is approved in the United States there was discussion on who will get it first. Teachers will be higher on the list, but they may not be first. The state does realize teachers are on the front line and they are important. Lisa reported on the Covid-19 vaccination planning and there are two sites identified. One at Old Saybrook High School and the other at Valley Regional High in Deep River. The CRAHD is working in partnership with the Essex Health Department. Everything will depend on how many vaccinations we get the first week and the vaccination is a two-dose series.

Deb Minor inquired about the assisted living facilities in Town and how soon they will get vaccinated. Lisa reported that people over 65 are high on the list. There was discussion that CVS was working on obtaining a million doses.

2021 Worksite Safety and Health Committee Meeting Schedule

Motion was made by John Planas to approve the 2021 Worksite Safety and Health Committee Meeting Schedule. Lisa Fasulo seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Lisa Fasulo to adjourn at 8:30 a.m. Mary Ellen Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Maria Lucarelli