

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Coventry Town Hall Annex
Thursday, June 16, 2022

Members present:

In Person E. Anderson (Andover), J. Elsesser (Coventry), D. Walsh (Coventry), E. Wiecenski (Willington)

Virtual R. Aylesworth (Mansfield), T. Nuccio (Tolland), S. Powers (Scotland), M. Walter (Columbia)

Staff present: R. Miller, M. Brosseau, K. Dardick (virtual)

J. Elsesser opened the Public hearing at 4:30PM

Scheduled Item: Public Hearing- Proposed EHHD Sanitary Code, Section 5, Barbershop, Hairdressing, Cosmetology, Nail Salon, and spa

Comments were heard from the Public.

Kim Robinson from Headliners Salon and Spa in Tolland CT expressed concern over the requirement of spraying down surfaces with a hospital grade disinfectant and waiting 10 minutes. She also expressed concern over installation of utility sinks. She rents her space and this would be a financial burden if additional hand sinks need to be plumbed into the space.

Julie Cusson of Tolland echoed the concerns expressed by Ms. Robinson.

R. Miller responded to the comments, noting that the sanitary code does state that other products can be used. R. Miller further commented that the Health District will be working with business to implement improvements in a reasonable timeline.

J. Elsesser closed the public hearing at 4:46 PM.

J. Elsesser called the regular meeting to order at 4:46 PM

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Proposed EHHD Sanitary Code, Section 5, Barbershop, Hairdressing, Cosmetology, Nail Salon (item#2, 4/21/22)

R. Miller gave a brief overview of the materials distributed.

E. Wiecenski made a MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to adopt the proposed amendments to the Eastern Highlands Health District Sanitary Code, Section 5, Barbershop, Hairdressing, Cosmetology, Nail Salon, and Spa as presented on June 16, 2022, effective July 1, 2022. MOTION Passed unanimously.

Robust discussion ensued regarding gathering feedback on the implementation of the program. It was decided that R. Miller will report back to the Board in 6 months. Based on that report, the Board will review possible changes to the code.

Proposed Position Classification Change

R. Miller presented the background on why this change is recommended. E. Wiczenski made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to authorize the Director of Health to reclassify this position as needed, and appropriate in an effort to fill the current fulltime environmental health field staff vacancy. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

S. Powers left the meeting at 5:30 pm

CGS Section 19a-36i, Itinerant Mobile Food Vendor, Reciprocal Licensing- MOA

R. Miller presented an overview of the statute and the impact to the Health District. R. Miller noted that this is currently voluntary, but may become mandated. R. Miller recommended deferring the signing of the MOA while his office focuses on the implementation of the Cosmetology program. The Board expressed support of the MOA.

E. Wiczenski made MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to authorize the Director of Health to execute the MOA for CGS Section 19a-36i, Itinerant Mobile Food Vendor, Reciprocal Licensing on or about February 28, 2023. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Medical Advisor Update

R. Miller requested K. Dardick give an overview of Monkey Pox and Powassan

K. Dardick noted that we are on a steep learning curve regarding monkey pox. He further noted that the small pox vaccine provides some protection and should there become community spread of the virus, there is vaccine available for distribution.

K. Dardick informed the board that the Powassan virus is carried by the same tick that carries Lyme. K. Dardick noted that the Powassan virus can be transmitted within 10-15 minutes of attachment. Currently, there is no treatment.

K. Dardick stressed the importance of prevention against tick bites.

Town Reports

Willington E. Wiczenski reported that a STEEP grant has been signed for the new septic system at the town hall. E. Wiczenski noted that the budget passed. In addition, the former "River and Rail" will be reopening as "Flat Penny Kitchen"

Andover E. Anderson informed the board that progress is being made on the connectivity project. E. Anderson noted that RFPs are coming back very high. In addition, the budget passed.

Columbia M. Walter report that a multi town meeting was held regarding the Hop River Trail in an effort to improve the trail. In addition, the budget passed.

Tolland T. Nuccio that permitting has been approved for the Santini project that will build apartments behind the Big Y in Tolland. T. Nuccio noted that RFPs are coming back

extremely high. T. Nuccio informed the board that a Town Manager has been hired. Brian Foley will start on June 27th.

Coventry J. Elsesser informed the board that Coventry had the first beach closure of the season. Patriots Park was closed due to high bacteria levels. J. Elsesser noted that permits are being sought after for a new establishment at the former "Daisy's Creamery". The new establishment will be "Burgers, Pies and Fries". J. Elsesser reported that the Library project will start soon, as well as the South Street project. J. Elsesser noted that project budgets are coming back over budget.

Mansfield R. Aylesworth reported that the Mansfield budget passed. R. Aylesworth noted the town council is working its way through adoption of ARPA funding recommendations. R. Aylesworth informed the board that a grant has been received and will be utilized to transportation and safety improvements on S. Eagleville Road and the Eagleville Green housing project.

Finance Committee- Financial Report, period ending 3/31/22

R. Miller presented the highlights of the financial report. D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Wiczenski to accept the financial report for the period ending 3/31/22. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Executive Committee- FY21/22 Auditor appointment

R. Miller reported that the Executive Committee met to formally appoint an auditor.

EHHD, Private Water Supply Sodium Chloride Survey

R. Miller reported on the survey and data the district has been collecting. He noted that individual addresses are confidential. At this time, there are no conclusions. Next steps will include continuing to update the database and working to educate homeowners. In addition there will be outreach and education to the water treatment industry.

Public Act No. 21-46- Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health, Safety and Education of Children

R. Miller informed the board that in recognition of the mental health crisis among youth, Local Public Health will be trained in suicide prevention. This will be a "train the trainer" training.

HB 5045- Childhood Lead Protection COVID-19 Response Activities Update- 6/10/2022

R. Miller noted that the new standards will increase the number of lead cases the Health District will need to follow.

COVID-19 Response Activities Update- 6/10/2022

R. Miller noted that cases are decreasing, and staff has been busy responding to clusters and outbreaks. R. Miller informed the board that the ELC2 grant will be executed in the coming days.

Quarterly Activity Report for the period ending 3/31/22

There were no questions or discussion.

E. Wicewski made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to adjourn at 6:40pm.
MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – August 18, 2022, 4:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller
Secretary