



BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG - BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

JULY 20, 2022 AT 7:00PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

PHONE NUMBER: 1 646 558 8656

Conference Code: 507843

Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94234059374>

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:22pm.

President's Statement

Under the provisions of N.J.S.A 10:4-6 et seq., notice of time and place of this meeting has been posted and sent to the official newspapers.

Roll Call

Present: Bruce Ruck – President, Francesca Escaleira, Diana Logan, Robert Reidinger

Absent: Charlene Virgilio – Vice President, Julia Gunther, Meghana Anadarangam, Kimberly Brown

Also Present: Council Liaison – Ron Jubin and Representative from Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission – Robyn Key.

Consent Agenda

Bruce Ruck moved and Diane Logan seconded, motion to approve the Minutes of the May 18, 2022 meeting. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Charlene Virgilio – Vice President, Julia Gunther, Meghana Anadarangam, Kimberly Brown

Health Inspector Report

Robyn Key informed the Board of a few emergency call outs in June. One in particular at Stop & Shop a where the HVAC system's conveyor belt was on fire - no food was damaged. She also commented on a sewage overflow in the Cinemark parking lot, explaining that this sewer line is an easement for Blue Star Shopping Center and Johnston Drive and it was blocked with grease.

Bruce questioned the Sunny Spa inspection. Robyn informed that there was an actual arrest for prostitution. She stated that they were not licensed by the Borough because they had a change in ownership, but because of a language barrier she could not close them down. She said she will have the court close them down. Bruce suggested that the owner of mall be informed as to the prostitution occurring on his property.

Ron Jubin requested an inspection be done at BJ's. He stated his daughter told him she saw a rat in the back by the drink section. Robyn confirmed she will inspect.

Bruce asked about the property on Cedar that was rat-infested. Robyn stated that no reports were received this

year.

Health Commission Report

Francesca Escaleira gave an overview of the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission meeting she attended. She stated that the agenda focused on reviewing the audit results on the March through May financial statements. Francesca said she will forward the meeting packet to the Board.

Bruce asked Ron to remind the Mayor to appoint someone to fill vacancy left by Joel Cohen and possibly another vacancy by Julia Gunther.

Old Business

- **Update: Watchung Walks/Mayor's Wellness Campaign**

Bruce stated that Summer-time participation is low and recommended more advertising on different social media sites. Ron suggested board members attend to take pictures for newspaper ads, etc. Ron also questioned if the day and time may need to be changed and other activities to be incorporated.

- **Update: COVID-19 – Vaccination Clinics for Pediatrics and After Hour Events**

Robyn informed that a Vaccination Clinic will be held on August 10th at Watchung Pediatric. Bruce questioned how this information can be publicized through the Borough. He stated his opinion on the lack of communication to the residents and further said that the Board really needs to step up on health-related communications. Bruce recommended that the information be sent to the schools for distribution to upcoming enrollments. Ron suggested that Robyn send the information to Damaris for distribution. Bruce asked Robyn to have the churches in Watchung and Warren as well. She said she will have the COVID Vulnerable Needs Facilitator contact Bruce.

Robert asked if a Board of Health member could be appointed as a health liaison to the Board of Education. Bruce responded that the Council would have to consider. Ron will discuss with the Mayor and Council. Bruce informed that Kevin has been sort of the liaison to the Board of Education.

- **Update: Cannabis – Educating Parents/Students, materials, resources, etc.**

Bruce informed that nothing new to report. He also stated that many places are opening up.

- **Borough Newsletter – Health submissions (9/1/22 is the deadline for Fall/Winter Newsletter Content) submissions)** Bruce requested Kevin and Robyn to include article on Marijuana and child safety.

Robert asked if Watchung Walks will be in the upcoming newsletter. Ron requested that the members of the Board participate and maybe take a photo for the newsletter.

New Business

- **Returning to in-person meetings at Borough Hall**

Francesca Escaleira stated that if meetings are held in-person, she will not be able to participate and would have to resign from the Board. Diane Logan explained she preferred on-line meetings as well. Robert stated that there is a great synergy when exchanging ideas around a table. Zoom was never meant to be the replacement. He feels zoom is a very sterile environment. Bruce stated that going hybrid (zoom and in-person) is an option and discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Public Portion

No public in attendance.

Adjournment

Bruce Ruck moved to adjourn the meeting and Diane Logan seconded, motion to adjourn at 8:11pm. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Charlene Virgilio – Vice President, Julia Gunther, Meghana Anadarangam, Kimberly Brown

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on September 21, 2022 at 7:00pm via zoom at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94234059374>. In order to comply with all NJ Executive Orders and to protect members of the public, meetings will be held virtually for all parties until such time when in-person meetings can safely resume while complying with all NJ Executive Orders. When in-person meetings resume, they shall be held at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Damaris Quiñones-Gray

Secretary, Board of Health

Accepted: 10/19/22