

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES

May 19th, 2021

7:00pm Virtual Meeting

Phone Number: 1 -646- 558- 8656

Conference Code: 507843

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

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), Julia Gunther (Vice President), Fran Ellis, Charlene Virgilio, and Kimberly Brown.

Absent: Diana Logan, Francesca Escalera, and Meghana Anandarangam
Also present is Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, Health Officer Kevin Sumner, Council Liaison Ronald Jubin and President of Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, Greg Riley.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – April 28th, 2021

Julia Gunther moved and Bruce Ruck second, motion to approve the minutes for April 28th, 2021 Special Meeting. All unanimously approved.

Old Business

COVID-19

Bruce Ruck gave a few COVID-19 related updates. He mentioned the vaccine is available in large quantities. He also mentioned a pop up clinic was held in Watchung at the Exempt Hall with about 15 participants. Mr. Ruck went over the new regulations put out by Governor Murphy in relation to masking, social distancing and indoor / outdoor capacity limit changes.

Health Officer Kevin Sumner stated the new Executive Orders are confusing due to frequent changes.

Julia Gunther mentioned she received a phishing email from Watchung Schools Director of Human Resources. She said there is a lot of scamming going on during COVID and wanted everyone to be alert.

Marijuana Update

Bruce Ruck commented on the open forum the Mayor and Council held in relation to Marijuana. He went over key points from the Board of Health standpoint. He also mentioned a few people were promoting marijuana for medicinal use.

Council Liaison Jubin commented on the open forum Marijuana meeting held by the Mayor and Council. He feels the key responsibilities to our residents in terms of Public Health are for the Board to educate, protect, and prevent.

Bruce Ruck shared his screen relating to the marijuana cases called into the poison center from 2007 to present from ages 1 to 5 years old.

President of Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, Greg Riley, questioned if the statute permits municipalities to collect tax revenue on Marijuana if they allow the sale. Bruce Ruck responded that 2 percent of gross receipts would potentially be receivable.

Kevin Sumner advised to all that he will distribute the educational Marijuana document to other towns via the administrators.

Council Liaison Jubin asked President Greg Riley of the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission to advocate for more funding towards education for public schools.

New Business

Health Officer Kevin Sumner commented that other activities such as construction, house sales, and septic work have become busier now due to the new relaxed COVID-19 restrictions. He also mentioned the department is starting to return to its normal operations.

Public Portion

President of Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, Greg Riley recommended a book by Brian Deer titled "The Doctor who Fooled the World."

Adjournment

Bruce Ruck moved and Fran Ellis second, motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm. The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on July 21st, 2021 at 7:00 pm. In order to comply with all NJ Executive Orders and to protect members of the public, current 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,

Regina Angelo

Accepted: 9/22/2021