



**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG - BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES**

MARCH 16, 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 7:10pm.

President's Statement

President Bruce Ruck was absent and Vice President Charlene Virgilio deferred to Health Officer Kevin Sumner to preside over the meeting.

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: Charlene Virgilio – Vice President, Francesca Escalera, Julia Gunther, Diane Logan, Joel S. Cohen and Kimberly Brown

Absent: Bruce Ruck – President, Meghana Anadarangam and Robert B. Riedinger.

Consent Agenda

Diana Logan moved and Charlene Virgilio seconded, motion to approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2022 Re-Organization meeting. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Bruce Ruck – President, Meghana Anadarangam and Robert B. Riedinger.

Meghana Anadarangam arrived at: 7:19pm.

Health Inspector Report

Kevin informed the Board Members of a new format of the monthly report. The new format reports numbers of inspections which include highlights and comments as opposed to the former report which shows many pages of details. Both formats were submitted for January and February. The new version also aligns better with the Commission's annual reporting through the national association and CDC.

Health Commission Report

Kevin stated that the Commission's Re-organization meeting was held in February. The Commission elected Greg Riley of Warren Township as President, Wells Winegar of Bridgewater as Vice President, and Angela Valerio of Warren Township accepted position as Treasurer. Kevin also mentioned new employee – in the position of Infections Disease Public Health Generalist who will conduct communicable disease investigations – following up with schools and long-term care facilities as well as other emergency preparedness activities.

Old Business

Status of Lake (dredging- cleanup work) – Council Liaison Ron Jubin explained that the Borough is still working on this very complicated matter. He will bring it up again to the Council for a more detailed update.

Watchung Walks/Mayor's Wellness Campaign – Ron Jubin informed the Board of the resolution the Council adopted regarding the Borough joining the wellness campaign. He recommended to begin getting the word out, inviting residents to do the walk, and having meeting with the Recreation Commission to coordinate incentives and activities. Kim Brown volunteered to be on the wellness committee and suggested t-shirts and tracking system for participant progress. Ron stated that he will inquire with the webmaster to develop a tracking app of sorts for residents to keep track of their progress. Joel Cohen volunteered to look into having the t-shirts made and/or donated.

COVID-19 Update – Kevin Sumner updated the Board that COVID numbers a relatively low and holding for last couple weeks. He continued explaining that COVID is still present with 30 to 35 cases being reported throughout the Commission in the past week. He shared that the BA.2 sub-variant of the Omicron variant does not seem to be a concern at this point but still being monitored. The school mask mandate lifted as of March 7th and he is waiting to see if numbers increase again – so far, he reports that number of cases have not increased.

Cannabis – Kevin stated that he submitted Q&A article for the Borough Newsletter regarding Cannabis. He discussed the concerns on the state level related to retail availability to the general public, lack of resources and educational materials. Ron Jubin informed that the Borough of Watchung has not approved the retail sale of Cannabis.

Julia Gunther informed the Board that March 20th is Poison Prevention Week and encouraged residents to put the poison control number in their phones for ready access.

New Business

Kevin Sumner mentioned the Massage Therapy License matter regarding updates to ordinance to comply with state regulations – specifically massage therapist and concluded that he will work with Borough to correct application process for massage therapist.

Public Portion

No public in attendance.

Adjournment

Francesca Escaleira moved and Julia Gunther seconded, a motion to adjourn at 7:55pm. All in favor with the following exception:

Absent: Bruce Ruck and Robert B. Riedinger

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on May 18, 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: 5/18/2022