



BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG - BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

MAY 18, 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 7:09pm.

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

Bruce Ruck informed board members of Dr. Joel Cohen's resignation.

Present: Bruce Ruck – President, Charlene Virgilio – Vice President, Julia Gunther, Diana Logan, Kimberly Brown

Absent: Francesca Escaleira, Meghana Anadarangam, Robert Reidinger

Change Order of Business - New Business

Bruce Ruck changed the order of business to address Charlene Virgilio's question regarding the Well Water Testing that was done in the past by Raritan Headwaters. Bruce Ruck requested that Kevin Sumner look into this initiative to possibly incorporate it to the Watchung Walks where residents can bring water to be tested. Kevin Sumner informed that he will look into it and he recalls that the free testing that was done was limited and the program has to be properly advertised to be effective.

Consent Agenda

Diana Logan moved and Kimberly Brown seconded, motion to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Francesca Escaleira, Meghana Anadarangam and Robert B. Riedinger.

Abstain: Bruce Ruck (absent from 3/16/22 meeting)

Meghana Anadarangam arrived at: 7:49pm.

Health Inspector Report

Bruce Ruck questioned the new format of reporting and Kevin Sumner explained the details of a new reporting system and the transitioning to a new format. Bruce Ruck asked about the rodent situation at Crystal Ridge Point particularly if the incidents that took place March 16th, 20th and 25th, were documented and/or resolved. Kevin Sumner stated that he thinks it is resolved because he has not heard anything else.

Bruce Ruck also asked about the septic repair on Mountain Boulevard and why they were not connected to sewer. Kevin Sumner stated that it has to do with the distance from the house to the sewer line that determines if connection to main sewer system is required.

Bruce Ruck mentioned the milk recall at public schools. He explained that a cleaning fluid got into the milk during processing and assured that it was non-toxic and that an immediate recall was issued.

Kevin informed the Board that the April Inspection Reports will be submitted for the next BOH meeting. He stated that a complaint was received regarding property maintenance on Apple Tree Road and that Middle-Brook is working on it.

Health Commission Report

Kevin Sumner gave update and informed that the next commission meeting will be held first Monday in June. He further stated that another board representative has to be appointed to the commission to fill vacancy left by Dr. Joel Cohen's resignation. He stated that the commission has finished the 2020 Financial Audit and that Borough of Somerville is interested in contracting Middle-Brook and asked him for a proposal. Kevin Sumner also informed the board of anticipated need to hire another licensed registered environmental health specialist if Somerville joins, but eligible candidates will be taking the state exam in May. Ron Jubin asked if hiring would be for 2023 or starting sooner. Kevin responded that they will be looking to hire before 2023 and pro-rate the balance of the year from the starting date if Somerville joins. Bruce questioned if office space will be provided. Kevin stated that he is in the process of rearranging space in Green Brook to accommodate staff and new inspectors.

Old Business

Update: Watchung Walks/Mayor's Wellness Campaign – Bruce stated that two walks were semi-well attended with 15 to 20 people each time. Bruce stated that better promotion needs to be done and more signs need to be put around the lake. Ron Jubin updated the board on the Walker Tracker App and directed that the information be forwarded to the members. He explained how the Walker Tracker App will perform with other apps and how it will work to keep track of the participants who register. He stated that the Borough will sponsor this initiative with funds allocated to BOH and informed the board of a survey regarding the Walker Tracker that will go out to residents as well. Further, he explained the advantage of getting the Mayors Wellness Campaign certification that will lead to grant opportunities, town sponsored bus trips, hiking events etc. He plans to meet with Scotch Plains representative to gather more information regarding certification process and benefits.

Update: COVID-19 - Kevin Sumner stated that there are a higher number of cases reported recently, but we have no restrictions or mandates and that schools and nursing homes are experiencing outbreaks again with repeat infections in individuals who are fully vaccinated and boosted. Bruce Ruck mentioned the worldwide outbreak of Hepatitis in young children.

Ron Jubin asked if there is anything regarding symptoms, etc. that can be posted on BOH website page and Middle-Brook website.

Update: Cannabis – Bruce Ruck stated that the number of children getting sick from accidental consumption is climbing. Kevin Sumner made reference to the article on Cannabis submission for the Spring/Summer Newsletter.

New Business

Julia Gunther brought up the baby formula shortage and suggested that a link to [healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org) be posted to the website. Bruce Ruck elaborated on the dangers of diluting formula and other alternatives that are being practiced. Kevin Sumner informed that Governor's executive order allows for waivers for WIC participants.

Public Portion

No public in attendance.

Adjournment

Julia Gunther moved and Kimberly Brown seconded, motion to adjourn at 7:55. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Francesca Escaleira, and Robert B. Riedinger.

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on July 20, 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: