



BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG - BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

MAY 17, 2023 AT 7:00PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

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, Diane Logan, Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Kimberly Brown

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Francesca Escaleira, Louise Lindenmeier and Meghana Anadarangam

Also present: Robyn Key, Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission and Dámaris Quiñones-Gray, Board of Health Secretary.

Bruce Ruck welcomed Deepika Garg to her first meeting and introductions were made by Board members and Bruce Ruck gave a summary of Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission (MRHC).

Consent Agenda

Kimberly Brown moved and Diane Logan seconded, a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2023 meeting. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Abstain: Charlene Virgilio and Deepika Garg.

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Francesca Escaleira, Louise Lindenmeier and Meghana Anadarangam

Health Inspector Report

- February, March and April 2023 reports (attached hereto).
Bruce Ruck inquired of the incident of the Bat in the Post Office, whether anyone was bitten. Robyn Key responded that no one was harmed in that incident.

Robyn Key informed that the report with the stats is still in progress and that she will be adding more data. Discussion was held regarding the reporting of COVID outbreak and cases especially in long-term care facilities.

Bruce Ruck mentioned anticipated cases of Lyme Disease. Robyn Key explained that Lyme Disease is no longer considered reportable as far as investigations, but she can access numbers in the surveillance system.

Dámaris Quiñones-Gray read a statement by Kevin Sumner, Health Officer, as follows:
“Please note to Members that adjustments were made beginning with April reports, as requested, to separate reports by town where possible. Prior months had already been completed. Thanks.”

Health Commission Report

Robyn Key informed that MRHC has several grants in process and named the following:

- The Strike Team Grant – provides infection control training in long-term and skilled nursing facilities.
- The NJ Strengthening Grant – supports infectious disease and outreach coordinator staff (to be renewed for another year).
- The Health Officers Association Grant – supports new MRHC health educator.

Robyn Key also mentioned that the Health Officers Association is trying to secure for a minimum of \$10 million dollars from the State for local public health agencies. She further informed MRHC hired a Health Educator - Amelia Dominguez from Long Branch who will be updating the MRHC's website to include public education material on mental health. Bruce Ruck questioned if MRHC can provide the website analytics to ascertain how many people are actually visiting.

Animal Control Solutions Monthly Reports

- March and April 2023 – Discussion was held regarding incidents reported and anticipated increase in “dog bites” in warmer months.

Old Business

- Mayors Wellness Campaign – Watchung Walks
Bruce Ruck elaborated on the attendance at this year's walks thus far. He suggested that the Board members take turns to be at one of the walks, maybe a schedule can be created.
Kimberly Brown suggested to start the walk on the other side of the lake to be more visible. She also suggested that signs need to be placed in front of Lake and Borough Hall. Discussion was held regarding initiatives to make the advertisements for walks more visible. Dámaris Quiñones-Gray provided the results to date of the survey (copy attached)
- Survey of members for best start time for meetings.
Bruce Ruck moved and Diane Logan seconded, a motion to keep the BOH meetings at 7PM. All were in favor with the following exceptions:
Absent: Robert Riedinger, Francesca Escaleira, Louise Lindenmeier and Meghana Anadarangam
- Watchung to host the Commission meeting of October 2nd
This meeting has been confirmed and Bruce Ruck asked that the Board members be in attendance since the meeting will be held at Borough Hall.

New Business

Discussion was held regarding advertising of Watchung Walks such as posting signs for the survey at the community picnic and the farmers' market.

Robyn Key announced that she received a call for a plan review for a Starbucks and that ShopRite is expanding at their location.

Robyn Key suggested that Lyme Disease information can be posted on the MRHC's website and that the new educator should be able to promote Mayors Wellness Campaign.

Legislation adopted by Borough Council - The Board had no questions regarding the following resolution below:

- Resolution R19 adopted on April 20, 2023, waiving Mobile Food & Fire Permit fees for the PTO events to be held April through December 2023.

Public Portion

No public in attendance.

Adjournment

Bruce Ruck moved and Diane Logan seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:15pm. All in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Francesca Escaleira, Louise Lindenmeier and Meghana Anadarangam.

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on **July 19, 2023 at 7:00pm** in-person at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,
Dámaris Quiñones-Gray
Secretary, Board of Health

Accepted: 7/19/2023