



Borough of Watchung Board of Health

MINUTES

October 18, 2023 - 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER 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, Charlene Virgilio, Francesca Escaleira, and Kimberly Brown – Alt. #2

Absent: Robert Riedinger – Vice President, Diane Logan, Meghana Anadarangam and Deepika Garg – Alternate #1

CONSENT AGENDA

Bruce Ruck moved and Kimberly Brown seconded, a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 19, 2023 meeting. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Abstain: Charlene Virgilio and Francesca Escaleira

Absent: Robert Riedinger – Vice President, Diane Logan, Meghana Anadarangam and Deepika Garg – Alternate #1

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION - STAFF REPORTS for July, August and September

Bruce Ruck questioned the outbreak of COVID at Brandywine Senior Healthcare facility. A discussion was held regarding a bat case that was reported. Bruce explained past issues with property maintenance at 131 Cedar Road and Kevin Sumner explained that this was a court issue and that the Board of Health cannot do anything else to resolve these issues.

ANIMAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS MONTHLY REPORTS for July, August and September

Bruce Ruck inquired about the reporting of deer accidents within Watchung and asked if there is any data captured. Kevin Sumner responded that if these accidents were reported, the reports would be under the Watchung Police Department.

OLD BUSINESS

Watchung Walks – Bruce Ruck gave a summary on the participation at the walks held Monday nights. He reported that a small group is still meeting. Bruce requested that a meeting with the Recreation Commission be set up to discuss how to generate events and/or programs to bring interest and participation to the Mayor's Wellness Campaign initiative.

CPR/AED Class held July 30th details & planning future classes. Bruce asked about the attendance at this event and suggested that Diane Logan be asked to schedule more classes throughout next year. Bruce directed that this event be placed on the next agenda under new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Louise Lindenmeier's resignation. Bruce gave explanation of the reason she resigned.

Attendance at Commission meetings – Watchung to host Commission on October 2, 2023

Kevin Sumner remarked on the vacant representation on the Commission due to Louise Lindenmeier's resignation.

COMMISSION REPORT:

Kevin Sumner informed the Board of the Commission's meeting held in Watchung on October 1, 2023, which consisted of discussion on the Commission's finances, upcoming budget process and asked Bruce to be on the budget committee. Kevin Sumner also stated that certain grants will be expiring on June 30, 2024 and the grants cover 50% of his staffs' salary and if the grants are not renewed his will lose half his staff.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Credible Minds information – Kevin Sumner gave presentation on Credible Minds program. He stated that this is a mental health-based program geared towards everyone. He further explained that it can be used by community members, students, teachers, first responders, police, etc., to search information, view (virtual) in-home and local resources on various mental health issues as bullying, depression and/or drug addiction. Bruce Ruck requested that the link to Credible Minds website be sent to every member and that a Psychologist or mental health expert review this program as well and provide their assessment. Kevin Sumner stated that he will send the members the link first before a Psychologist review it. Charlene Virgilio volunteered to share the link with a Psychologist from her office to review it.

PUBLIC PORTION no one appearing.

ADJOURNMENT

Bruce Ruck moved and Kimberly Brown seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:21pm. All in favor with the following exceptions: Robert Riedinger - Vice President, Diane Logan, Meghana Anadarangam and Deepika Garg - Alternate #1

The next BOH meeting is scheduled to be held November 15, 2023 at 7:00pm, in-person at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully submitted,

Dámaris Quiñones-Gray

Secretary

Accepted: 2/6/24