



**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG - BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2024
7:00pm**

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.

Welcome - Council Liaison and new Member :

Introductions were made by the Members, Robyn Key representing Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission and new Council Liaison Sonia Abi-Habib
(Borough Administrator J. Damato administered oath of office to Marybeth Lijo before the meeting)

Roll Call

Present: Bruce Ruck, Robert Riedinger, Francesca Escaleira, Diane Logan and Marybeth Lijo
Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Kimberly Brown

Also present: Council Liaison Sonia Abi-Habib, and Robyn Key, Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist of Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission.

Election of President

Francesca Escaleira nominated Bruce Ruck for President and Diane Logan seconded. All were in favor with the following exception.

Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Kimberly Brown

Election of Vice-President

Bruce Ruck nominated Robert Blair Riedinger for Vice President and Diane Logan seconded. All were in favor with the following exception.

Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Kimberly Brown

Consent Agenda

Bruce Ruck moved and Diane Logan seconded, a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting. All were in favor with the following exceptions.

Abstain: Not present at October 18th meeting – Robert Blair Riedinger and Diane Logan

Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Kimberly Brown

BOH R-1. APPROVAL OF 2024 MEETING DATES

A motion was made by Board as a whole to amend the resolution by changing March's meeting date to Tuesday, March 5th. All in favor to adopt as amended with the following exceptions:

Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Kimberly Brown

Meeting Dates approved as follows:

March 5

July 17

November 20

May 15

September 18

Re-Organization Meeting on January 15, 2025

BOH R-2. AFFIRMING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Bruce explained Watchung's role in the Commission and how Middle-Brook serves as our Health Department. Bruce Ruck moved and Diane Logan seconded, a motion to adopt BOH R-2. All were in favor with the following exceptions.

Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Kimberly Brown

BOH R-3. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MRHC

Robyn Key gave overview of the Commission and explained that two representatives, along with one alternate are appointed by each municipality to participate in the Commission's meetings held every other month and added that the meeting schedule will be provided. Robert Riedinger volunteered to be a member and Marybeth Lijo volunteered to be the alternate. Discussion was held to defer this resolution until the second member is confirmed.

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Robyn Key stressed the need for Watchung's participation in the Commission. She shared the Health Educator's newsletter. She also informed that Radon Test Kits have been delivered to the Borough for distribution.

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION - STAFF REPORTS

October, November and December 2023

Bruce Ruck inquired of the Legionella Disease case in November's report. Discussion was held regarding mice infestation and mold issues in apartment complexes. Bruce Ruck questioned new massage parlor at Phenix Suites and dog bite incidents that were not listed on report. Robyn Key gave further details on these incidents.

ANIMAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS MONTHLY REPORTS

October, November, December and 2023 Annual Reports

No discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

- Watchung Walks – Bruce Ruck gave summary of survey to change day/time and the results were to keep it on Mondays.

- MWC – Bruce Ruck informed the members of the Recreation Commission’s Zoom meeting he attended in December, where they discussed forming a sub-committee with two Board of Health members and two Recreation Commission members to come up with ideas for the Mayors Wellness Campaign initiative. Robyn Key suggested a nutrition program and will provide contact information for the board members to learn more about this program and possibly invite them to next BOH meeting. Marybeth Lijo and Bruce Ruck volunteered to meet with the Recreation Commission pending invitation to the Recreation Commission’s next meeting. Diane Logan suggested offering CPR classes for Teens/Babysitters and will provide two dates for this year.
- Credible Minds – Bruce Ruck requested Robyn Key to ask Kevin Sumner to re-send the link for Credible Minds again to the members of the board to discuss at the next meeting.
- Changing Meeting time – Bruce Ruck canvassed the members present. It was decided to have the next meeting at 7:00pm and discuss with the absent members to change starting time to 6:30pm for all future meetings.

Public Portion

No public in attendance.

Adjournment

Francesca Escalera moved and Bruce Ruck seconded, a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. All in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Kimberly Brown

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on **March 5, 2024 at 7:00pm** in-person at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey.

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

Accepted: 3/5/24