

**CHATHAM BOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 13, 2021  
4:30pm VIRTUAL**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting will be called to order via Zoom at 4:30pm

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**STATEMENT REGARDING ADEQUATE NOTICE OF MEETING**

In compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq., adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by publishing a copy of the Reorganization and Regular Meeting notice in the Chatham Courier, the Daily Record, and the Alternative Press on January 8, 2021 a copy of which was posted on the official bulletin board on the main floor of Borough Hall, and was filed in the office of the Borough Clerk. Notice of the time change for today's meeting was provided to the press on May 10, 2021.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86001764514?pwd=SkUvaHITWmJSSFU4QWRkWLhmZC9Edz09>

Passcode: 114228

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**ROLL CALL**

Micki Chaput **PRESENT**  
Lisa DeRosa, R.N. **PRESENT**  
Kay Kaiser, R.N. **PRESENT**  
Shelliam Lee **PRESENT (LATE)**  
Andrew Zoltan **PRESENT**  
Lara Freidenfelds **PRESENT**  
Robert Weber **PRESENT**  
Council Liaison Leonard Resto **PRESENT**  
Bridget Colendenski, R.N., Public Health Nurse **ABSENT**  
Megan Avallone, Health Officer, Westfield Regional Department of Health **PRESENT**  
Beau Preston, R.E.H.S., Westfield Regional Department of Health **PRESENT**  
Melanie Politi, BOH Secretary **PRESENT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT TIME LIMIT:**

Hearing of citizens during the Public Comment section of the agenda is an opportunity for any member of the public to be heard about issues which are/are not topics scheduled for Public Hearing

tonight. To help facilitate an orderly meeting, and to permit all to be heard, speakers are asked to limit their comments to a reasonable length of time.

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## **MOTION TO ADOPT MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION** to approve, as prepared, the following meeting minutes:

April 8, 2021

Approved minutes shall be filed as a permanent record in the Borough Clerk's office.

***Len Resto motioned to approve: Lisa DeRosa seconded the motion.***

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## **REPORTS**

***1. Nursing Report- Megan Avallone provided the nursing report on behalf of Bridget Colendenski. She presented her Health Report immediately following.***

- Continuing with the home visits and vaccinations; no Chatham residents attended the Child Health Clinic.
- Bob Weber asked about the status of the homebound vaccinations; thirteen residents requesting home vaccines have received. There are 2 left on the list, they are trying to get in contact with the caregivers.
- Len Resto asked about the options available since the Johnson & Johnson shot has been stopped. She reported that Moderna has been successful as a replacement. They are also doing checks on the homebound during their visits to see if there is any other assistance that can be provided.
- Kay Kaiser asked if there was a way to provide incentives for people to get the vaccine.
- Lara Freidenfelds suggested to also include people who work in the town and perhaps adding a convenient second shot would be convenient.
- Megan replied that because of the limited doses of vaccine they are receiving now they are doing targeted outreach to be sure they have sufficient supply. If they did a pop-up clinic they would need a preregistration so as not to waste vaccine.
- Kay added it would be great to include everyone we can: she asked if everyone had a chance to review the communication policy which was forwarded to the Board.
- Lisa stated that previously communication was not sent through the Borough, it went from the Health Officer and was then disseminated by the Board.
- Megan said that sending it through the Borough will ensure the information is factual and official.
- Lisa added that she feels the Board should send information out as opposed to the Mayor or Administration. She added the lack of communication between the Board and Task Force was disappointing.
- Lara feels the information currently provided by the Borough is lacking.

- Megan added that some of the information she receives is for planning purposes only, and not for the public. It is not that the information is being withheld but that the State was not sharing this data with local health departments. Weekly narratives sent are for the Board to decide what they can do better for the community.
  - Lara appreciates the clarification and feels frustrated by who decides what can be shared, because she is not clear on what information should be shared.
  - Kay replied that if they contact the Westfield Health Department that they are the proper people to provide information, and the public should be sent to them.
  - Lara said as a private citizen she discusses things with friends and neighbors: she doesn't understand what is public and what is not. She would like clarification.
  - Len added that Megan could add privileged or confidential, to the weekly reports.
  - Lisa said she would like the Borough council to understand what the Board does, in relation to the recent change to the smoking ordinance for example, she feels they are left out of the loop.
  - Len added that is actually one of the items on the goals & objectives that Bob suggested for 2021.
  - Kay suggested they get re-connected with the council so that going forward, there is a renewed interest in communicating with the Board. She asked the group if there are other members that feel they are missing communication or feel there is a lack of information.
  - Bob suggested going forward, the information coming from Megan should be considered confidential, and if a member feels they would like to share that information they should defer to Megan prior to providing to the public. Lara agreed this process is helpful.
2. R.E.H.S. Report –
    - Beau Preston reported all inspections are going well and preapprovals are almost completed. He has scheduled all pool inspections.
    - Kay asked if it was important to inform the public what a satisfactory rating is for restaurants.
    - Lisa suggested providing a bio of what Beau does as the REHS and explain how inspections are completed.
  3. Financial Reports – no review
  4. Vital Statistics Report – no review
  5. Animal Control Report
    - One dog bite with an unlicensed dog.
    - The rabies clinic may be brought back for 2021.
    - Animal Licensing stats discussed; Andrew was elected to prepare a flyer to encourage licensing, Megan said she has a template for that.
  6. Pest Control Report – no review
  7. Health Officer Monthly Update - See above

## **DISCUSSION ITEM(S)**

Lisa report on coalition:

- a. Marijuana legislation was discussed; a policy paper and a position paper will be prepared using statistics from the area and similar areas.
- b. Tuesday May 18 they will have their next meeting and are hoping they have information about the new law and the position on this issue.

Discussion re: marijuana policy coming up for discussion.

- a. Kay added that we should poll the Board, as the Mayor would like to know where the Board is leaning on this matter.
- b. Lisa suggested waiting for more information from the MACC; Kay answered she would just like a sense of what everyone is feeling.
- c. Lisa said she feels that the to the community in regard to youth that should be the priority.
- d. Andrew said he feels there could be an influx in crime, and that he doesn't feel it would fit with the community.
- e. Micki said she does not support; Lara added that she would also be concerned about youth well-being and substance use.
- f. Shell added that he does not support, Bob Weber concurred.
- g. Len is also not in support of allowing dispensaries.
- h. Lisa said she would have the MACC zoom information forwarded so Board members could attend.

Updated mask mandate information was released; Megan is unsure of the impact for NJ residents.

- 2) Proposal for formal orientation for new members and any recently appointed members who wish a short briefing.
  - a. An advertisement plan is in place for the end of the year; Lisa said we should be able to look for new members now.
- 3) Review of current guidelines for vaccinated adults / youth as published in local journals.
  - a. The age for covid vaccination may be available for children younger than 12 over the summer. There has been no guidance on boosters as of yet.
- 4) Formalize goals for year: present to mayor/council.
  - a. The proposed goals & objectives were discussed: Kay led the group through each item for revision.
  - b. There was a suggestion to prepare a Resolution to present to the council by the Board to act on the proposed Marijuana Dispensary Ordinance.
  - c. They could also present a resolution in support of the council's decision to opt out.
  - d. Lara brought up leaf blowers; Len said we should do more research. Lisa said the Board should join with the Environmental Commission and the Mayor's Wellness.

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**OLD BUSINESS: *None***

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**ADJOURNMENT: 6:20pm**