

CHATHAM BOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2021
4:30pm

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

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 tonight's meeting was provided to the press on April 6, 2021.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89385239144?pwd=KzBZYURMK2RNcXRiZjVieXBZTDk0Zz09>

Passcode: 714408

ROLL CALL

Micki Chaput ***Present***

Lisa DeRosa, R.N. ***Present***

Kay Kaiser, R.N. ***Present***

Shelliam Lee ***Present***

Andrew Zoltan ***Present***

Lara Freidenfelds ***Present***

Robert Weber ***Present***

Council Liaison Leonard Resto ***Present***

Bridget Colendenski, R.N., Public Health Nurse ***Present***

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.

MOTION TO ADOPT MEETING MINUTES

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

March 11, 2021

Micki Chaput motioned to approve the minutes; Len Resto seconded the motion.

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

REPORTS

1. Nursing Report

- Typical COVID Questions are being posed to their office. Four children participated in the child health clinic: additionally, 2 adults and 2 children received vaccinations by Mrs. Colendenski. Home vaccine visits begin on Tuesday.

2. R.E.H.S. Report

- Restaurant inspections completed; no issues for the month.

3. Financial Reports

- No questions.

4. Vital Statistics Report

- No questions.

5. Animal Control Report

- Dog Bites by an unlicensed dog- the Board questioned the number of licensed animals in the Borough. Melanie Politi stated she will get the number of animals licensed in 2021 for the next meeting.

6. Pest Control Report – None.

7. Health Officer Monthly Update

- Our numbers are really quite high; the lead epidemiologist at Mt. Sinai is a Summit resident and will be working with Megan on an educational event for parents: information and insight on risk activities for children during the pandemic.
- Len Resto added that most people do not wear masks outdoors as he walks through town.
- Megan Avallone added that people are fatigued with the pandemic and lacking compliance.
- Kay Kaiser asked if the changes in infection rates are related to sports teams and interaction within that group. Megan confirmed that it is between opposing teams. Transmission patterns have been changing; one can assume this may be the variants. It is not the classroom, as there has been no adjustment to physical location of desks, or interaction in children so the variants are likely the reason. Maskless activities such as dining inside, attending outdoor gatherings, or church have been noted as recent elevation in infections. The more people are maskless the more they are exposed to viruses.
- Lara added that parents of children who have not reached the approved vaccination group are feeling 'abandoned'.
- Kay added that if anyone can assist Megan with this webinar they are here for her.
- Megan commented that most towns will be allowed to have large events by July, but that Memorial Day suggestions are to refrain from large gatherings.
- They have received Johnson & Johnson vaccines for homebound residents, and they are hopeful that most vaccines will be completed next week. There are 12 residents who have requested vaccines.

DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

1. Coronavirus update
2. Sign Board
3. Vaccine Information
4. Goals for 2021

- Lisa DeRosa asked Len Resto for an update on the gas blower ordinance in Chatham.
- He replied that he supported the reduction in noxious fumes and hurricane force winds created by these leaf blowers. There was a meeting at Borough Hall where they invited 15 landscapers to attend a discussion on organic landscaping, three attended at that first meeting and more attended at the second. Quite a few homeowners have taken them up on the organic landscaping invitation.
- Lisa suggested a discussion between the council, the environmental commission and Board of Health regarding the noise and pollution.
- Andrew added the quality of the battery powered lawn tools is quite good: discussion ensued regarding landscaping equipment options.
- Kay deferred to Bob Weber to discuss the new marijuana laws. He feels from the board's perspective they can suggest to the council what should be done. In terms of messaging to the community he feels that we should keep it away from children as much as we can because it will be more readily available. He referenced a new Star Ledger article regarding marijuana addiction and teens.
- Lisa added the Madison/Chatham Coalition are on top of this; she worries that council could opt-in because of the budgetary gains. If we opt-out we could possibly change that at a later date.

- Andrew Zoltan suggested opting out before we opt-in. Lisa suggested engaging the community in these decisions.
 - Lara said she had an extended conversation with the Mayor a couple years ago, at which time he was not in favor of extending marijuana access in NJ beyond decriminalizing possession, and I assume that reflects his thinking about a dispensary in Chatham.
 - Andrew suggested since the marijuana business will be all cash it would be a target for crime. Lisa added that perhaps Bob Weber or Amy from MACC could go before the council; he replied that he is unaware of any council member who has taken this subject on.
 - At Monday's meeting he was planning to check on the status of the plan at the next council meeting as a member of the public. Lisa added perhaps we could add this as a discussion item and nominated him to make this request as a BOH member.
 - Kay added that we are assuming they have not begun this work, maybe we can get a feel for where they are in the process.
 - Andrew added that he would doubt this is something that the council is in support of.
 - Lisa will let the MCC know what they have spoken about and they will see how they can help.
 - Discussion about advertising new member opportunities was introduced.
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OLD BUSINESS: *None*

ADJOURNMENT: *6:10pm.*