

CHATHAM BOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2021
5:00pm

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 5:00PM

STATEMENT REGARDING ADEQUATE NOTICE OF MEETING – *Board President Kay Kaiser read the statement.*

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 September 2, 2021.

ROLL CALL

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

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Kay Kaiser asked if there were any members of the public present. Mr. John Jaroker asked to speak.*

Mr. Jaroker resides at 37 Lincoln Avenue; he has had an ongoing issue with a neighbor's poison ivy encroaching on his property. He cited Board of Health Code Ordinance 278-6 Nuisances prohibited:

(15)Plants. Permitting poison ivy, ragweed or any other poison plant to exist or to grow upon any public or private property within 50 feet of any public sidewalk, public street, party line or building or permitting any ragweed or other noxious or harmful weed to grow upon any property, either public or private.

- Mr. Jaroker stated Beau Preston, REHS has been ineffective in his attempts of remediation with the homeowner. He feels this is an ineffective use of taxpayer money, as Beau has been to the location seven or eight times with no success.
- Beau confirmed Mr. Jaroker's neighbor did have poison ivy growing up through one of the trees and through the fence. There was a chemical sprayed on the plants by that resident, and the plants were removed the next day. This did not give the spray enough time to penetrate the roots and kill the plant: the directions right on the spray says it could take two to three weeks to destroy the roots. Although the plants have not been completely extinguished Beau has found that the neighbor is not being negligent, as they are trying their best to rid the property of the plant.
- Mr. Jaroker said he feels the homeowner is not taking appropriate action, and has requested the Board inform the homeowner of their obligation to maintain their property.
- Kay Kaiser thanked Mr. Jaroker for the information provided. Mr. Jaroker left the meeting; the Board discussed sending another letter to the resident, and what steps could be taken to stop the spread of poison ivy at this residence.
- Lara suggested educating the public on poison ivy, such as identifying what it is, and how the plant should be removed. She added residents should also be environmentally conscious during pesticide application and removal.
- Andrew said that the areas referred to in the complaint, specifically where the poison ivy grows by the creek could actually be the town's responsibility to remove, as it is a Borough easement.

MOTION TO ADOPT MEETING MINUTES

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

June 10, 2021

Len Resto motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Lara Freidenfelds seconded.

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

REPORTS

- ✓ Nursing Report
- ✓ R.E.H.S. Report
- ✓ Financial Reports
- ✓ Vital Statistics Report
- ✓ Animal Control Report
- ✓ Pest Control Report
- ✓ Health Officer Monthly Update

- There will be 3rd dose available soon as well as booster doses for those who received the shot through home visits by the Westfield nursing team, as well as at the long term care facility located in the Borough.
- Megan stated that most breakthrough cases are seven to eight months out from the second dose. She added that many home-health aides are not vaccinated, and when they visit homes in Chatham they do offer the vaccine to these individuals.
- NJDOH said 2.4 million NJ residents will be eligible for the booster; there is concern over supply. You can mix Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, but not the J&J vaccine.
- Flu & Booster will be given at the same time for home visits. They are working with schools on new guidance; three feet distance is sufficient with masking.
- Chatham has one of the highest statistics in the state for vaccines in adolescents age 12-17
- PCR Testing has been taking longer as well as being harder to find.
- Andrew noted that some people say that the school mask mandate follows the law but not the science, and asked Megan whether public health practitioners agree with that statement. Megan replied that covid is passed through droplets, so having the masks on will protect against the airborne transmission. The flu season overall was very low last year due to everyone wearing masks.
- Lisa added that she had read a book titled 'Premonition' about the pandemic, and that with public health there is a layered approach: people should mitigate in their own daily life to protect themselves from the virus.
She asked what the message should be this year regarding the flu season? Megan said they are planning to give both vaccines unless guidance is presented they should be given separately.

Nursing Report:

There is now 100% compliance for schools in Chatham. The audits have been completed.

Animal Control/Rabies Clinic:

The Rabies Clinic will not be held this year due to low enrollment in previous years; Melanie will add this information to the website for Morris County free clinics.

DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

- 1) Participation in Fishawack with Environmental commission for lawn mower/ leaf blower decibel issue. (Lara and Andrew)
 - There will be a display booth along with electric lawn equipment demos at the Fishawack Festival. The booth will be staffed by Board of Health and Environmental Commission members. ACE Hardware will be on hand to explain the equipment to potential buyers of the sustainable lawn tools.
- 2) MCC update on (Lisa)
 - Board members Lisa, Len, and Bob Weber attended a zoom meeting for the Cannabis Task Force through the MCC (Madison Chatham Coalition). Topics covered included personal use laws, marijuana use in public space, police action, and parental notification.
 - The Borough has “opted out,” but cannabis companies are allowed to deliver to Borough residents.
 - Lisa added there will be changes, and an increase in underage consumption. Lara suggested perhaps having a discussion with the community and Borough police on the subject and the changes with the passing of this law.

Conversation circled back to the complaint by Mr. Jaroker, and Megan added she will consult with the Borough Attorney on the subject.

OLD BUSINESS: none

ADJOURNMENT: 6:50 pm