



Borough of Watchung Board of Health

MINUTES

March 19, 2025 – 6:30 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 pm.

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.

OATH OF OFFICE – Charlene Vergilio, Regular Member

Oath was administered by Board of Health Secretary/Notary – Damaris Gray.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bruce Ruck-President, Diane Logan-Vice President, Charlene Vergilio, Kimberly Brown and Marybeth Lijo

Absent: Robert Riedinger and Francesca Escaleira

Also present: Council Liaison Sonia Abi-Habib and Kevin Sumner, Health Officer from Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to approve the Minutes of the January 22, 2025 meeting was made by Diane Logan and seconded by Kimberly Brown. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Abstain due to absence from January 22nd meeting: Charlene Vergilio

Absent: Robert Riedinger and Francesca Escaleira

BOH 2025-R-4. APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRAR

A motion to appoint Colleen Lange as the Registrar of Vital Statistics for the Borough of Watchung was made by Kimberly Brown, seconded by Bruce Ruck. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger and Francesca Escaleira

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Kevin Sumner gave a brief summary of the Commission's Re-Organization meeting. He also announced the development of the 2024 Annual Commission Report. He is hopeful that the report will be completed by the first week of April 2025 which will be National Public Health Week. He also informed that the Commission will be participating in a National "Costing Assessment" to determine what is needed for public health and what is spent on public health. He stated that there is a decline on infectious diseases, but they are monitoring evolution of H5N1, no human cases reported in New Jersey yet. Kevin Sumner continued to inform on the rising of Measles. Bruce Ruck questioned the number of unvaccinated children in Watchung Schools. Kevin Sumner stated that there is a 97% compliance. He continued that they are focusing on Preschool & Daycare facilities to educate them more on vaccinations.

Bruce Ruck stated that he will not be able to attend Middle-Brook's Commission meetings because he will be teaching Monday nights and asked for more Watchung representation.

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION - STAFF REPORTS

January and February.

Bruck Ruck inquired if Watchung has any in-home child care facilities. He referenced a complaint on the report and requested Kevin Sumner to look into the occurrences of child care facilities operating without the proper licenses. Bruck Ruck questioned leak testing. Kevin Sumner explained the process of lead testing machines for radioactive leaks. Diane Logan mentioned the cleanup around Valley View School with regards to empty plastic water bottles, chip bags and other garbage. Bruce Ruck asked Kevin Sumner to clarify a report entry regarding a cat bite and Vector Animal Control. Bruck Ruck requested that Kevin Sumner follow up on this incident. Bruce Ruck also questioned an abandoning and sealing of a septic system on Bonnie Road.

ANIMAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS MONTHLY REPORTS

January and February – No questions or comments on reports.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mayors Wellness Campaign – Bruck Ruck asked if the walks are going to start again. Damaris Gray responded the Watchung Walks will start Monday, April 7th and further explained a new initiative to award participants.
- Community Picnic, Saturday, May 17 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm.
- Mayors Wellness Campaign - Future Line Dancing Event (suggested activity)
- Enforcement of selling of Cannabis infused products Bruce Ruck asked Kevin Sumner for update.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayors Wellness Campaign – Kevin Sumner mentioned a collaboration with Warren for a water testing event.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19pm was made by Bruce Ruck and seconded by Diane Logan. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Vice-President, Charlene Vergilio

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on May 21, 2025, at 6:30pm in-person at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Dámaris Quiñones-Gray

Secretary, Board of Health

Accepted: 5/21/25