

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERSON BOARD OF HEALTH WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 10, 2019 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE BOROUGH HALL.

Roll Call: Nicole Argenzia, Cindy Bischoff, Linda Lahey and Sue Gibbons
Also present were Councilman Knoller, Angela Musella, Health Officer NWBRHC,
and Liz Morris, Board of Health Secretary

Apologies: Corey Melillo

Board of Health Secretary notified the Board of Health members that in case of a fire to follow the Fire Exit sign above the door and exit calmly.

Roll Call: NA -yes CB -yes LL -yes SB -yes

The Board of Health meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Board of Health President Nicole Argenzia.

Motion by Cindy Bischoff seconded by Sue Gibbons, that the minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting be approved.

Roll Call: NA -yes CB -yes LL -yes SB -yes

The Animal and Financial Reports for September were reviewed.

The September report is quite short as there was not a lot of activity. One dog license with a late fee and one food license were issued. The food license was for the Bar/Restaurant area downstairs. When the upstairs function area is opened a second fee will be requested.

Payment of vouchers

There was a monthly payment to the NWBRHC and there should have been a second payment of \$1.20 for the state fee for dog licenses. This was missing and will be amended.

Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission Activity Reports for September was circulated to the meeting.

A lead testing program was held in Emerson in September. It went very well and 27 kits were received. They were all returned and there was only one failure from a potable water source. These will be repeated with running water. The initial test is done on standing water.

Inspections

Nine inspections were done in September and all were satisfactory.

Hackensack Golf Club pool water tests are still good.

Plan reviews & consultations-None to report

Temporary Licenses-None issued

Complaints

Dairy Queen

Individual claimed to have contracted Herpes from an unwrapped spoon. The REHS inspected for handwashing and recommended that the disposable utensils lined up so that customers only touch the handle of the utensil that they are going to use.

Lincoln Blvd

There was a noise complaint regarding construction from a resident living opposite. She was assured that it was only temporary and would abate when the construction was complete.

Laurel Chinese Restaurant

DPW Employee reported seeing rats by the dumpsters behind Laurel Chinese restaurant. REHS went to all the restaurants in the area and put them on notice to keep their dumpster lids closed. This was rechecked several times to ensure they were in compliance. REHS noticed a small rat and issued a notice to exterminate to the businesses. She also informed NJ Transit of the issues. The dumpsters of the apartments on Emerson Plaza West were being left open. They will be notified to keep them closed.

Enquiries-None for the month

Animal Bites-No animal bites reported.

Summonses/Abatements/Violations-None for the month

Court Appearances-None

OPRA requests

There was one OPRA request for residential properties code violations. This request has been made to numerous municipalities. These requests are probably linked to a study being done at Rutgers.

Servsafe Food Handlers Classes- None held during September.

Vital Statistics

There were 12 deaths reported and 1 marriage license issued in September.

Health Education-

Chantal gave two handwashing classes at Assumption Day care on September 19th.

Public Health Nursing/Communicable Disease Investigations

There was one case of Hepatitis B and one case of Lyme disease

The Emerson blood Pressure Screening was held on September 12. Eight patients were screened all vital signs were within normal limits. The Public Health Nurse took the opportunity to introduce herself to the Seniors who were meeting at the time of the clinic and encouraged them to utilize the screening program.

The October clinic did not have any attendees as there was a political candidate speaking at the time the clinic was taking place.

Ken Roman, the president of the Senior's club has requested and received copies of the flyers so he can publicize the Blood Pressure Clinic.

The flu clinic scheduled for October 4th had to be cancelled due to lack of the high dose vaccine. NWBRHC are waiting to hear if/when there will be any high dose vaccine available. The representative of the company that provides the vaccines is confident they will have some available in the near future. If none is available in a week then the regular dose vaccine will be used and the suggested reschedule date would be in the week starting October 21st. Studies have shown that the high dose vaccine gives a statistically significant reduction in the number of cases of flu in this age group. However the CDC will not endorse that statement. A concern was expressed that if there were a bad flu season and the regular dose was not effective in limiting the flu symptoms there may be comeback on the Borough. This could be mitigated by asking vaccine recipients to sign a waiver. There have already been over 300 cases of flu in New Jersey this year. This information should be shared.

Angela has been in contact with Lois Cohan, RN from Hillsdale who works with the Bergen County Public Health Nurses Society. They want to honor Kay Hodges with a memory stone in the memorial garden beside the library and the senior center. The meeting agreed that it would be a nice idea to plant a tree near the stone. Councilman Knoller will contact the DPW about doing this. It may need to wait until the spring.

NWBRHC are holding their annual rabies clinic on November 2nd between 12 and 1 pm at the DPW.

Council Liaison Report

Councilman Knoller had anticipated that an anti-vaping Ordinance would have had a first reading at the first Mayor and Council Meeting in September but because of the law passed by the State this did not happen. The Governing Body would like to wait and see how the State Law works out. This law does have an age restriction but the Governing Body has decided not to ban vaping for adults. There is an Ordinance that bans smoking in public places and the State Statute means that this is extended to vaping according to the Borough Attorney. There is no current plan to expand the Borough Ordinance to cover vaping or introduce a ban on Hookah Lounges. The Borough Attorney would like to wait and see what the State will do. The consensus of the meeting was that the Borough should include this in its Ordinances and would like to meet with the Borough Attorney to discuss this. Councilman Knoller agreed. He will be invited to a Board of Health meeting.

Councilman Knoller updated the Board of Health on the appointment of Robert Hermansen as Borough Administrator. He will start October 15th.

Settembrino, a firm of architects has been asked to develop a recommendation for renovations vs. reconstruction for Borough Hall. They have visited Borough Hall and held discussions with the department heads. A report is expected in December.

The lot at 58 Locust Avenue is being converted into a commuter parking lot for 50 vehicles.

The discussions with the redeveloper at a recent Mayor and Council meeting were reviewed. The buildings need to be secured and the best way to do that is to demolish them. That cannot take place until the redevelopers have their permits. There is also the issue of businesses that do not want to move; Cork and Keg, Sendai and Laurel Chinese. When the Cinar Restaurant building is demolished Lincoln Blvd and Kinderkamack Road will be widened to make the corner less tight. Councilman Knoller reviewed the financial aspects of the agreement with the redeveloper.

Councilman Knoller also reported a sighting of a fox. He reported it to the police.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion, re: Hookah Lounge and anti-vaping

See the Council Liaison Report

Discussion re: Food handling Issues, Emerson Schools

The schools were inspected subsequent to the last meeting and they were found to be satisfactory. Any complaints should be sent to NWBRHC. Sue will post on the Emerson Moms Facebook page that the concerns about the food in schools appear to have been resolved. She will advise people that any future concerns should be communicated to the Board of Health office.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion re: Dumping food waste

Nicole had an email from Michael Giarrello forwarded to her by Councilman Hoffman. He was concerned about someone dumping food waste by the reservoir for wild animals. The Board of Health Ordinance prohibits this. Suez is aware of the problem. Nicole will ask for further information and the Police Department will be informed.

Discussion re: Vaping Awareness

Sue was interested to know if NWBRHC had any programs for schools on Vaping Awareness. Their Health Educator is going around giving presentations on vaping and Angela suggested that Sue and she connect to see what could be done. Nicole has been involved in doing this in various

towns but not Emerson. A contact for the Municipal Alliance will be provided to see if there is any room for collaboration.

From January 2020 meetings will be recorded the Borough's recording system.

Motion by Cindy Bischoff, seconded by Linda Lahey, that the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Roll Call: NA -yes CB -yes LL -yes SB -yes

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Morris, Board of Health Secretary