

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

President Cheriyan stated that notice of this meeting held via Zoom was posted on the Bergenfield Website, sent by e-mail to the Record and Cablevision. It was placed on two bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and placed on file in the Borough Clerk's office.

ROLL CALL

Dr. Cheriyan
Mrs. Pfannen
Mr. Cabuhat
Dr. Quiroz- absent
Mrs. Marte

Also, present Mr. Fedorko, Mrs. DeLaCruz, Councilman Deauna, Ms. Barker, Ms. Williams, Ms. Grippo

OPEN HEARING

President Cheriyan, asked Ms. Williams about the status of the pickle ball noise pollution issue. Ms. Williams, stated the recommendation to the public is to call law enforcement in case they are facing issues with the noise. Councilman Deauna inquired about the noise issue and President Cheriyan explained that it was the pickle ball noise and disturbance to the public occurring in the field late evening and early morning. Ms. Stanton was present at the last meeting and brought up this issue. Ms. Williams, and Mr. Fedorko were assigned to check on this matter and based on the conversations they had with Administration the final decision was that the public file a complaint with the Police Department since the Health Department has no jurisdiction. Vice President Pfannen, asked Ms. Stanton if it was less frequent timing, Ms. Stanton confirmed the time varies. Ms. Williams, mentioned she has read all the emails that were sent and under the noise ordinance recreational activities are allowed to begin at 8:00 a.m. and if the activities begin before 8:00 a.m. Ms. Stanton should contact the Police Department. Ms. Williams mentioned that Ms. Stanton will need to talk to Administration and the Police Department regarding this matter. Ms. Stanton reiterated that Ed Volmer has copies of her emails and nothing has been done. Ms. Stanton questioned Ms. Williams if she spoke with Capt. Duran. Ms. Williams stated she has spoken with dispatch and explained that people are allowed to stay in the park till 9pm. President Cheriyan reiterated to Ms. Stanton that she should file a complaint with the police department if it is happening outside the hours allowed for recreational activities. Ms. Stanton thanked the Health Department for trying to resolve this issue.

There being no one present who wished to be heard, on a motion by Vice-President Pfannen seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried the time for Open Hearings was closed.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-President Pfannen seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting of December 2023 be accepted as written.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Mrs. DeLaCruz stated that on behalf of President Cheriyan, Purchase Orders have been signed by Mrs. DeLaCruz and submitted. A motion was made by Mrs. Marte, seconded by Vice-President Pfannen and carried that the following bills were reviewed and approved.

Tyco	3,086.66
Cooper Pest Control	1,097.25
Control Solutions	39.00
FRA	675.00
Wb Mason	184.03
WB Mason	247.11

REPORTS**Legal and Finance**

No Report

Medical

Absent

Personnel

Mrs. Delacruz stated there was nothing to report.

Publicity

The Board of Health meeting was advertised on the Bergenfield Website, The Record and Cablevision. The Rabies Clinic scheduled for December 10th, was advertised.

Liaison To Mayor & Council

Councilman Deauna mentioned he had to excuse himself from the Menorah lighting at the Borough Hall. He added that Dr. Quiroz had a major stroke and will not be able to attend future Board meetings. Councilman Deauna has mentioned to the mayor that a replacement will be needed. Councilman Deauna stated he has also visited with Dr. Quiroz, since her transfer to a facility in Emerson. President Cheriyan assured Councilman Deauna prayers for the recovery of Dr. Quiroz.

Legislature & Regulatory

Mr. Cabuhat stated that he and Mr. Fedorko are working on rewriting the feral cat ordinance to include TNR. President Cheriyan stated that this will be discussed in unfinished business.

Written Reports of the Department

Mr. Fedorko requested Mrs. DelaCruz to share the screen with his report and information that was given. Since it was not possible Mr. Fedorko asked requested Ms. Grippo the health educator to speak about some of the health presentations.

Ms. Grippo reported that the Holiday in the Park was successful, she gave out about 72 covid tests and flu information. Ms. Grippo also confirmed Nurse Liz will be receiving 80 additional covid tests that can be distributed to Bergenfield residents. Ms. Grippo stated she is aware that Nurses Robin and Liza will be going to the Senior Center, she would like to join them one day and train seniors for Bingo size.

Ms. Grippo stated the training for Bingo size, took a day or two for the online training. Mr. Fedorko mentioned that there are several health educators from Mid-Bergen that go to the senior centers to do bingo size. Mr. Fedorko stated that bingo size incorporates bingo and exercise. Seniors seem to enjoy it and he hopes this can be done in Bergenfield.

Mr. Fedorko mentioned that last month influenza and covid cases were low however flu has been picking up and is currently moderate. Mr. Fedorko stated covid cases are now increasing southwestern part of the state. He mentioned that the flu season started later this year as opposed to last year and referred to his first report. Mr. Fedorko spoke of rabies, and he referred to slides going back 20 years. He stated rabies is endemic in the feral animal population and confirmed that rabies is a hundred percent fatal. Mr. Fedorko stated that almost every year there has been a rabies fatality in the US. Mr. Fedorko thanked Mrs. DeLaCruz for getting data for his next graph - referring to the dog licensing. Mr. Fedorko stated the licensing for domestic dogs has decreased in Bergenfield and mentioned he sees a decrease in all towns except Hasbrouck Heights.

Mr. Fedorko stated in 2024, he would like Mid- Bergen and Bergenfield Health Department to promote licensing within our community with that he could be certain that domestic animals are vaccinated against rabies. President Cheriyan stated that people were bitten while in other countries. Mr. Fedorko referred to the kidney transplant patient who was bitten by a racoon in the Eastern United States in January 2013 and the symptoms began when the person returned to the United States. Vice President Pfannen asked how long a period it could be to contract rabies, President Cheriyan stated it could vary depending on the amount of the virus. Mr. Fedorko mentioned that since we promote vaccinations of the domestic animals there is no transmission of rabies and he likes to keep rabies at arm's length. Mr. Fedorko stated rabies is in our wild animal population and the main reason for licensing is to control rabies. Ms. Barker spoke about the benefit of licensing which is a public health issue. Ms. Barker stated very often if a dog is not licensed which is 90 % of the time there is no information about that dog, however many times the dog has been inoculated within the last 3 years. Ms. Barker cited two instances of a Police Officer who was bitten and also a child who had to get rabies prophylaxis treatment, since the dogs were not licensed and vaccination records were not provided to the health dept.

Mr. Fedorko brought up the issue of getting the vaccination if bitten. Mr. Fedorko stated the vaccination of rabies prophylaxis could cost up to \$1000.00. Mr. Fedorko stated he is not looking to do a pet census even though this is done in Hasbrouck Heights and as a result licensing has not decreased. Mr. Fedorko, would like to use Mid Bergen's health educators and the Health Dept to encourage owners to get their dogs licensed. Vice President Pfannen, inquired about the number of dogs currently licensed for 2023. Mrs. DeLaCruz confirmed there are about 700 dogs licensed and last year about the same. She explained that when the dog census was done about 10 years ago there were more licensed dogs.

Ms. Williams, asked if any members had any questions for her regarding her report. Ms. Williams stated that the only other issues she wanted to discuss was the FDA Recall on cantaloupes, peaches, plums and nectarines. In addition, Ms. Williams visited Dollar General in Bergenfield regarding another recall for Apple Sauce pouches.

Nurse Liz stated that the Nurses will be doing a nutrition class at the senior center on December 26, 2023 the class is to teach seniors about substituting apple sauce for butter. In reference to the Child Health Conference and School aged child program, Nurse Liz stated that there has been an influx of students coming from other countries and there are many PPDS from the High school.

A motion was made by Vice-President Pfannen seconded by Mrs. Marte and carried that the written December 2023 reports of the Department be accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

“No correspondence”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Fedorko mentioned that Mr. Cabuhat recently sent him an ordinance from Point Pleasant Beach and Municipality. Mr. Cabuhat stated Point Pleasant had a volunteer organization that assisted with the feral cat population. Mr. Cabuhat, explained that the Ordinance is not only about the neutering but also for vaccination purposes. Mr. Cabuhat feels it is important and it is a great protection for the community since cats are exposed to wild animals. The next step would be for an in person meeting with Vice President Pfannen, Mr. Fedorko, Ms. Williams and Ms. Barker to discuss this matter further.

NEW BUSINESS

Contracts 2024

Mrs. DeLaCruz reported that the yearly contracts for 2023 are being submitted to the Health Department. Mrs. DeLaCruz requested permission from President Cheriyan to sign them on his behalf unless there is a significant change from 2023. President Cheriyan agreed. Mrs. DeLaCruz submitted the 2024 contract for shared services between Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission, Tyco animal Control, Dr. Nancy Rothenberg, Hackensack Meridian Health (HARP) and the Borough of Bergenfield to the Board for review. After a brief discussion, it was the decision of the Board to renew the contracts as presented. Mrs. Delacruz thanked Mr. Fedorko for all his services, and for the two great health Inspectors. A special thanks to Ms. Grippo for her help with Health Education.

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Nurse Liza updated the Board on the safe sitter program she stated the first class will be on January 20th, 2024 from 9am to 1pm. The 2nd class will be on the 3rd Saturday of each month for Grade 7 thru Grade 12. Vice President Pfannen inquired if we have a good response to the program. Nurse Liza stated she thinks there are about 6 applications at this time. Nurse Liz mentioned that the Nurses recently had a meeting with Dr. Tully regarding the program. President Cheriyan inquired about the minimum age Nurse Liza stated that it was Grades 7 thru 12.

A discussion regarding the rabies clinic took place. Mrs. DeLaCruz confirmed the rabies clinic took place on Sunday, December 10, 2023 and it was a success, Mrs. Delacruz stated that 50 vaccines were given between dogs and cats and it was similar to last year.

President Cheriyan inquired about the new notice from the Board of Cosmetology regarding unlicensed barber shops and nail salons. Mrs. Delacruz asked Ms. Barker to provide additional input regarding the notice. Ms. Barker stated the letter was from the Board of Cosmetology, requiring the assistance of the municipalities to use their ordinances to enforce unlicensed salons and businesses, in addition to home and unlicensed persons. Ms. Barker mentioned that the State Board simply does not have the resources to enforce such ordinance. Ms. Barker stated that they are working with Mr. John Bastordo from the state on three nail salons that have unlicensed operators. Ms. Barker also confirmed that all the Hair and Nail salons have been licensed with the Health Department. Ms. Williams mentioned the State Board has no jurisdiction over unlicensed shops or shops operating out of the home. Ms. Williams stated the Municipality will have to enforce the ordinance at the local level with a new ordinance or update to the current ordinance.

Ms Stanton inquired about the pickle ball noise that was discussed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Stanton asked how she should explain to her neighbors that the noise pollution is not a health issue but a law enforcement issue. Ms. Williams explained that Bergenfield does not have a sound meter and that this is not in the Bergenfield Ordinance. Recreational play is allowed during the hours specified and Ms. Stanton should file a complaint by calling the Police Department if it is outside the specified hours. Ms. Williams suggested that Ms. Stanton and her neighbors should contact the non-emergency number to file the complaint.

President Cheriyan and the Board wished everyone Happy Holidays! President Cheriyan, asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Vice-President Pfannen, seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

AnneMarie DeLaCruz
Registrar of Vital Statistics