



**PENNINGTON BOROUGH
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
REORGANIZATION MEETING
FINAL MINUTES**

TUESDAY JANUARY 23, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

I. Call Meeting to Order / Statement of Proper Notice:

Chair Read: “Adequate notice of this meeting as required by sections 3(d) and 4(a) of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public and filed with the Borough Clerk.”

Steve Papenberg called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

II. **Secretary:** Roll Call

Steve Papenberg, Chair (X) - Marjorie Kaplan (X) - Mariya Brown (X) –
Katherine Hellman (X) – Ron Suzuki (X)
John Valenza, Borough Council Liaison (X)
Dawn Marling, Health Officer (X)

Introductions of all members including new members of the BOH: R. Suzuki and K. Hellman

III. Minutes Submitted for Approval -- October 24, 2023

M Kaplan motioned to approve the minutes and M. Brown seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

IV. Nominations for 2024 Chairperson & Vice Chairperson

Reorg meeting according to ordinance should be in/around July. Ordinance does not call for a Vice Chair but calls for Chairperson and Secretary. It may make sense to have a Vice Chair. BOH agreed to reorganization for Chairperson and Secretary and Vice Chair in case Chair is incapacitated.

M Kaplan motioned to nominate Steve Papenberg as Chair and M. Brown seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

S. Papenberg motioned to nominate M. Brown as Vice Chair. M. Kaplan seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

S. Papenberg motioned to nominate M. Kaplan as Secretary. M. Brown seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

V. Establishment of 2024 meeting dates

Tuesday nights work, Zoom works well for now and can revisit when we see numbers for COVID going down.

March 12, June 11, October 15 proposed as meeting dates.

R. Suzuki motioned for meetings to be March 12, June 11, October 15 as meeting dates.

K. Fellman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

a. Draft Notes from the Joint meeting of the Hopewell Valley Boards of Health

b. Other – Follow up from the Last Board Meeting.

D. Marling was to follow up about how do people in Borough receive emergency notifications? D. Marling notes we had a change of OEM coordinators and since last meeting was not able to get information; D. Marling will now ask the new OEM coordinator where folks sign up for this and can send to the BOH members. Right now the Borough website does not provide proper links for residents to sign up. D. Marling will coordinate with new OEM coordinator and Borough to ensure sign up is going to the proper place to receive emergency notification. J. Valenza is also going to work to correct the error on the Borough website.

J. Valenza was to find out if the deer management is coordinated? J. Valenza confirms that K. Chandler coordinates this for Borough Council and the hunters for deer management are coordinating with Hopewell Township Deer Management Advisory Committee. J. Valenza will find out who the liaisons with HTDMAC are.

M. Brown and Dr. Perris (former BOH member) reviewed the animal control ordinance in response to animal control issues in the Borough. BOH has been hoping to address this for quite some time due to serious harm caused by pets and activities not covered by current ordinances. M. Brown requests process to move changes to the ordinance forward which would include cats and address Class 3 bites. S. Papenberg explains process for revisions: BOH vote on the changes and they are submitted to the Borough attorney for inclusion in the Borough ordinances. D. Marling notes that whatever is proposed has to align with what the Health Dept can enforce and meets state law. S. Papenberg notes we will put on the agenda for the next meeting. Prior to that meeting, M. Brown will send the Board information about these changes.

VII. Board Member Updates / New Business

a. Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership: is working with local health departments and local hospitals to develop the Community Health Improvement Plan. HealthyMercer.org (also <https://gmphp.org/>) provides good information about the GMPHP.

b. New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association <https://njlbha.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NJLBHA-Orientation-Manual-2022.pdf> includes the manual that members can avail themselves of, it explains what is required for local boards and board members and essential public health services of the state. If new BOH members have questions they can meet with Steve Papenberg for information.

M. Kaplan motions for BOH to renew membership to join the NJLBHA; R. Suzuki seconds, motion passes unanimously.

c. Video – Prevention of Child Abuse: All members of the Board are asked to do this. Steve will notify the Borough Clerk that all members have watched the video.

d. Council Updates – J. Valenza. Council meets twice monthly now. They now meet the last Monday of the month in a public work session one week ahead of the Council meeting (which is the first Monday of the month). The deadline to get information to

Council for consideration at the next Council meeting is the Thursday before the Last Monday of the month i.e., the Thursday before the Monday work session.

- e. Other – Rutgers released NJ Public Health Adapt: <https://njhealthadapt.rutgers.edu/> . Presentation by The Watershed Institute on Municipal Stormwater Permits on Monday January 29th at Council work session @7 pm to come up with a plan that is watershed wide but will have specifics for each municipality.

K. Fellman reports on what is being seen in the ER currently: seeing flu among older people who then return to ER after discharge with respiratory failure, most patients are older and have been vaccinated but have many comorbidities. COVID seeing more in younger patients. R. Suzuki is finding patients that have respiratory illnesses but not certain of what they have (not flu, not COVID). R. Suzuki is seeing more people with babesiosis. Discussed that BOH issued a piece on tick-borne illnesses in Borough Newsletter; reminded that feeding deer is not legal in Pennington.

If members of the BOH want to submit more information for Borough alerts they can draft something, share with all members of BOH and D. Marling and then once all ok, send to J. Valenza who will facilitate having it sent out with Borough alerts.

VIII. Health Department Updates

- a. Staffing and Grant Updates: Health Educator/Outreach coordinator position vacant since Sept and new employee will begin on Feb 6th. Grants from CDC end 6/30 and secondary smaller grant extended thru end of 2024 will help keep staffing in-place. Will know in March/April whether additional funding for FY'25. Stable public health funding has been gone since Governor Christie; Senate and Assembly will be reintroducing legislation for stable source of funding and new NJ Public Health Institute is also working towards this.
- b. Activity Report - Animal Control 2023 issue on W. Welling with rat infestation is resolved. Wells Fargo contractor brought in to clean up. House has not been foreclosed but the situation is for now under control.
- c. Activity Report – 2023 Retail Food Inspections - D. Marling looking to invite the restaurants to a food safety refresher training. All locations visited in 2023 in Pennington are now in compliance. J. Valenza will get the date for Pennington Day so Health Dept can schedule staff for food trucks inspections on-site during Pennington Day. Free radon kits are available and news of this went out thru Borough e-alert. D. Marling will share information about how to get on the list for Hopewell Valley Senior Services Center newsletter.

IX. Public Section – none present

- X. Adjournment - M. Kaplan motioned for adjournment and R. Suzuki and M. Brown seconded; motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 8:17 pm.