



PENNINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

7:00 PM

Via Zoom Platform

Meeting Minutes

Meeting opens at 7:00 pm

1. OPENING STATEMENT - 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.

2. ROLL CALL: Steve Papenberg, Chair (X) - Toni Lewis (X) - Susan Perris (X) - Marjorie Kaplan (X) - Mariya Brown (X)

- John Valenza, Borough Council Liaison (X)

- Dawn Marling, Health Officer (X)

Also in attendance: Samantha Austin, Hopewell Township Health Department's Outreach Coordinator & Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)

3. Approval of Minutes – March 1, 2023

One minor correction to minutes

S. Perris moved; Toni seconded -- Minutes passed.

4. Health Department Updates (January-April 2023)

- Overview, Staffing, Org Chart: Transition from Montgomery Township has gone well, with Animal Control coverage effective Feb. 1st and full Hopewell Township Health Department (HTHD) public health coverage as of April 1st. Introductions with various Borough officials have taken place and Samantha Austin attended Local Government Week event, sharing public health outreach materials. Environmental health staff conducted general walk-thru of Pennington School. Pre-opening inspections of new bakery and new Mexican restaurant in Borough; working on securing full-time REHS inspector. Bi-lingual nurse starts next week (part-time). HTHD org chart was shared; everyone reports directly to Health Officer.
- Animal Control – 1st Quarter Report: Coverage began Feb. 1st. During Feb and March, only a few physical responses (typically, slow time of year for animal issues). Worked out after-hours SOP with Pennington PD. Arranged a meeting between ACO's and the

Hopewell Valley Humane Law Enforcement Officers (HLEO's). For purposes of criminal proceedings (animal cruelty charges), enforcement thru County Prosecutors office and needs to run thru the police. Every municipality must have one law enforcement officer trained in animal cruelty and investigation.

Fall/Winter Rabies Clinics: Dates are coordinated. Can use volunteers. The clinic at Pennington Boro DPW will be held December 2nd.

- Environmental Health: In-process of mailing annual food license renewal applications (Boro restaurant licensing runs July 1st –June 30th). Getting temp vendor licenses issued for Pennington Day on May 20th. Dawn asks about Boro Lighting Ordinance and who is to enforce? John V. says not to be Health Officer it should be referred to switchboard and Pennington Police. We don't have a code enforcement officer right now but it's a police matter at this point. Dawn will give Chief Pinelli a heads-up to address this.
- Public Health Nursing & Education: Looking forward to public health nurse joining team soon, and will assess Boro communicable disease data/trends.
 - May 18th - Capital Health Mobile Stroke Unit: This event is cancelled; the Mobile Stroke Unit is being discontinued. If Hopewell Valley EMS responders see an uptick in strokes, Dawn will make Capital Health aware of it. Mariya notes that, depending on which drug in 1-3 hours the long lasting effects of the stroke are mitigated. The point of the unit is to get you started in evaluation and treatment. Steve and Dawn will be at the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership meeting and will ask about the Mobile Stroke Unit.
 - May 20th – Pennington Day: Samantha and public health nursing staff to run the health education table. Dawn and Glen Belnay, part-time REHS, to conduct food truck inspections.
 - May 22nd – Community Health Screening: blood glucose, bone density, etc. screenings. Hoping to offer more events in the evenings, to enable better participation for residents.
 - June 5th – Family & Friends CPR- awareness for folks who want basic skills.

Promoting events thru social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram), email lists, and physical flyers (Pennington Bagel, Libraries, Pennington Market, etc.). John V. suggests link to the public alert and over text and Facebook and links to these things to be notified at a time that is proximal to the event. John V. will send a note to Betty Sterling to ask her to send these out for the May 22 and June 5th Events. In future can put links in the minutes as well as PDFs to BOH so ready access for members and to get to Betty.

- FY'24 Grants: NJDOH has offered these for several years during the pandemic. "Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity" grant is being renewed for FY'24 and fully covers the Outreach Coordinator position, as well as the Public Health Generalist, and the Health Department's Administrative Assistant. How is the grants support working? State data base not very user friendly.

5. Communicable Disease Updates

- Updated COVID-19 vaccination guidance: Monovalent Moderna and Pfizer are no longer able to be used, going forward need to use bivalent. Janssen no longer used at all. Another

booster clinic will be conducted in June. Anticipating new recommendations for booster in the Fall, with updated formula.

- Ending of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency -- PHE will end May 11th. Local health dept level this looks like scaling down for individual COVID-19 case investigations and will focus on patients w/ severe outcomes, e.g. children who are hospitalized/or die, long term care facilities, and other lab reports will be tracking and looking at data. Some things will change in terms of state and federal data reporting and some requirements will ease and pace of information will change. Will be changes re: insurance coverage and reimbursement that could affect access to coverage, testing, and HD does have some antigen tests for free and saving for vulnerable individuals and coordinate with Hopewell Food Pantry to ensure they have access, folks who cannot afford.
- Babesiosis trends in New Jersey: Tick-borne cases rising over last 10 years; likely combination of both increased prevalence and better diagnosis. HTHD will do outreach in June. Fever is big clinical feature. Not same as Lyme. Hunterdon is #1 in state and it's certainly a concern and have seen hospitalized residents from Hopewell Valley. Mainly people between age 50 and 70.
- CDC monitoring of H5N1 Avian Influenza and Marburg Virus: Reports about Avian Influenza risks to people are relatively low, not sustained human transmission. Human cases around world are generally occupational risk, e.g. people working with infected birds. Marburg: CDC is keeping an eye on this at moment; no travel restrictions at this time. No screening for Marburg at this time.

6. Old Business

- Public Health Funding; BOH letter to State reps – S. Papenburg: We got response from Senator S. Turner and Assemblywoman Reynolds Jackson indicated support and will find out more about this on meeting later this week. John V. asks If this funding does not come thru, will it impact our fees? Our contract with Hopewell Township is locked-in for 5 yrs. If no continued grant funding after June 30, 2024 then certain Health Dept. positions may be at-risk. The general Public Health Priority Funding existed in NJ until 2011 and ended by Governor Christie and had been stable to municipalities to provide public health services would be better than fighting for grants and deliverables. Also point to more Equity and towns like West Windsor and Princeton have flush Health Depts whereas other jurisdictions (e.g. Camden) don't have their own Health Dept.
- Revising Health Ordinances – T. Lewis -- Steve has looked at this briefly and asks Dawn to provide input. Toni has looked at the ordinance at one point. Toni thinks ones we think that needed updating were animal control. Where we left off was creating a subcommittee to look at it and come up with suggestions. Susan suggests basic the way written if your dog bites somebody and wanted to update it bc wanted to include other pets, like cats or iguana or some other types. Susan will be happy to help. Mariya will work with Susan. May be as easy as adding the words "cats and dogs and other pets."
- Deer Management – T. Lewis: This has come up in the environmental commission as well. Some drone footage taken and had hired some hunters to do some deer management. Pennington is a sink where deer from preserved lands around Boro are hunted by County, and deer move into the Boro. No updates on how successful deer management w/in Boro has been and obviously with other tick borne illness request an update. Need to coordinate with Deer management committee with the Township Committee. Action items update from Pennington Boro, township information, illegal to feed deer here (residents in Boro are illegally feeding deer) and seize opportunity in public information to understand proper ways to interact with deer and to not feed them.

- Cannabis Sales – S. Perris: What is the Boro doing right now? Store in Pennington next to Thai food place that will be cannabis sales. Hopewell has several sites they were thinking about but letter from Cannabis Regulatory Commission for address on Pennington Circle. Do they have approval? Township has ok'd one cultivator license and 2 recreational sales locations but Dawn has to follow-up to confirm who and if selling recreational marijuana on Pennington Circle. For Boro: There will be a Starbucks at TD Bank and there will be an approved sales location near Thai food there.
- Train Derailments, OEM Updates – D. Marling/J. Valenza: Dave Berez HT OEM Coordinator spoke to the Boro Council about it. He is in contact with CSX and primary response is the County being responsible for hazardous waste; yes the train carries petroleum products. They made aware of response initiatives and what to expect and the thing is if there was a big event it would affect the entire valley. Can't let people know the response routes, but it's in place and all the law enforcement and first responders are aware of it. Specific details from meeting last night can hear recording on the website. The Health Dept. has access to the documents as well. Chief Martin, Chief of Emergency Services is hazmat trained and experienced with CSX trainings. Overall seeing increase in rail safety and declining rail derailments; bigger concern is trespassing fatalities. CSC rail cars are up to current standards and another good take away was that the track in Hopewell Valley is 'straight and slow'. Bridge maintenance in Hopewell Valley is possibly still an issue. Degradation of the bridge could be a concern. Also concern about the prevention of the rail cars from getting into an accident and still not clear on what caused derailment in Ohio and if standards for cars and operations need amendment? We want to hear from the people who regulate CSX, not necessarily CSX. Bridge maintenance DOT jurisdiction? And regulations of the train cars? John V. will put Marjorie in touch with Dave Berez to ask Qs about the rail cars and bridges, who regulates this, and what prevention is underway. Also Dawn mentions we do have one joint emergency operations plan for the Valley and this document is reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.
- Water Quality (PFAS at Timberlane Middle School) – D. Marling: PFAS testing in 2019 and brought into compliance by putting on a treatment system. No PFAS in treated water there now. Can see all the data for public water sampling at DEP WaterWatch website. https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/.
- Other

7. New business

- Council Updates – J. Valenza - No updates.
- Joint Boards of Health meeting, September 2023 – D. Marling: Wed Sept 13 looks good Hopewell Twp Municipal Building and will include Hopewell Twp Board of Health (Township Committee), as well as the Advisory Board, and the Hopewell Borough Board of Health. Topics suggested to Dawn could include deer management, train/OEM updates, water quality.
- Additional 2023 meeting dates – S. Papenburg: Next meeting on July 11th
- Other

8. Public Section

9. Next Meeting Date: July 11th at 7:00pm via Zoom.

10. Adjournment Toni makes the motion to adjourn and Susan Seconds and meeting is unanimously adjourned at 8:36 pm.