**PENNINGTON BOROUGH**
**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**REGULAR MEETING**
**FINAL MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**
*Conducted via Zoom*

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 7:05 pm.**

II. **Secretary**: Roll Call
Steve Papenberg, Chair ( X ) - Mariya Brown ( X) – Katherine Fellman ( X )
Marjorie Kaplan ( x ) - Ron Suzuki ( X )
John Valenza, Borough Council Liaison ( X)
Dawn Marling, Health Officer ( X)

III. Minutes Submitted for Approval – January 23, 2024 -

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

IV. Old Business
a. Emergency Alerts: https://www.hopewellpolicenj.gov/divisions/oem
Dawn followed up with Twp Emergency coordinator, William Mullen, gives all the information on how to get texts., this is the best place to start for residents to go in and sign up. Hopewell Twp Health Dept will develop a flyer on this and also Pennington can put this information on the Borough website.

V.  Board Member Updates / New Business
a. Pennington Local Government Week: Steve followed up with Borough Council member Nadine Stern who had reached out to Board of Health, along with all Borough Boards and Commissions, about participating in Pennington Local Government Week, a sparse attendance last year will try again this year, Wed April 10th 5-7 pm and will set up tables at the municipal bldg. and Steve will be there, any other BOH member is invited. Steve will reach out to our Outreach Coordinator on this for handouts and how to publicize the event.

b. NJLBHA update: Steve participated in NJLBHA meeting. Discussion was about ventilation for marijuana shops who are approved to allow smoking on site. Current NJ regulations have loose language about ventilation. NJLBHA is following up with DCA

on this for more specifics on this requirement and hopefully better guidance that will help both the patrons and the workers.

c. Animal control ordinance: Mariya and Steve looked at the animal control ordinance regarding animal bites and have found an issue they suggest be resolved. Currently under the ordinance for "Reporting of Bites", there are two separate parts that are not congruent and Mariya and Steve suggest amending Part A to be congruent to Part B. Under Part A. whenever someone is bitten by a dog the person in charge of the animal has to secure the dog and keep it alive and confined until they receive an order from the local board of health while under Part B. whenever any person is bitten by any animal or dog suspected of rabies, the person in charge, the victim, their guardian, the attending physician, and any person with knowledge has to report to the local board of health, police……To solve concerns about being bitten by an animal other than a dog, and requiring that animal to be secured, Steve and Mariya are suggesting that the language in Part A be changed to refer to being bitten by "any animal" so that it is similar to Part B. John will consult with our attorney Walter to look to change the language.

The other issue members of BOH are investigating whether using medical classification of animal bites (there is a classification schema from 0 to 6 with 6 being fatal) can be incorporated as an approach for addressing dangerous animals. Steve is going to follow up with NJLBHA about whether classification of animal bites can be a feasible approach.

d. Pennington newsletter: A notation that this is something that we can provide information to the public on, if outreach coordinator has ideas they may want to publicize this is a vehicle we could use.
e. COVID vaccine update: November last year CDC recommended boosters and discussion is to have a COVID booster with a flu shot. Another message to get to people to take advantage of the COVID vaccine with a flu vaccine. CDC did recommend an additional dose of vaccine for over 65 folks if its been 4 months since last dose.
f. Council Updates – J. Valenza: Deer management counting number is in and John not certain of exact number, but number of deer eliminated is roughly 50 in the Borough's program. We also have a new full time Borough Administrator, G.P. Caminiti whom John will put in touch with Dawn and Steve.
g. Other – Dawn mentions that we are looking for Sept dates for annual joint meeting of different boards in Hopewell Valley. All members to take look at the dates of 9/11, 9/17, 9/18, 9/19, 9/23 and email Dawn availability for this meeting.

VI. Health Department Updates: Feb 9th email has a monthly update in it from Dawn. Introduced new outreach coordinator (started first week in February) and look at the Social Services Brochure for feedback (Dawn to send a reminder to us). Dawn currently has grant funds to update this and get it out to public. Unfortunately, vacancy on the environmental team, we do not have a full time environmental inspector, have advertised for the position and will have one interview this week, hope to get this position filled quickly, put routine inspections on hold and therefore can only address high priority issues right now. Thankfully, outbreaks that we were monitoring in February have concluded. Have reached out to new Admin of Brandywine Assisted Living, want to encourage residents there to be vaccinated. Have a bit of delay in getting the 2023 annual report pulled together. Looking to hold shingles clinic, first dose in April, second in June. Blood Drive in May. Want to get as many health education materials as possible, press releases and website updates ready while we have an outreach coordinator funded. Completed immunization audits in day care centers and schools. Almost all completed. We do have many religious exemptions (which is legal) but for most part all children are up to date. Steve will reach out to Dawn for April 10th event.

VII.     Public Section N/A

VIII.     Adjournment
M Kaplan Motions for Adjournment, Mariya Brown Seconds. Unanimous Approval to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 7:44 pm.