

**Minutes of the Board of Health Special Meeting via Teleconferencing  
Due to The State of Emergency  
April 2, 2020**

**ROLL CALL:** A special meeting of the Allendale Board of Health was held by Teleconferencing on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by Nadine Benoit.

The following member were present: Heidi Askin, Maria Crean (absent), Robin Iversen, Chris Martin, Linda Morgan, Susan Toran and Nadine Benoit. Also present was our Sanitarian, Kristin Caperino, Mayor Ari Bernstein, Sgt Lawler and Scott Zieber, Director of OEM.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:**

The Requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied through posting on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and the Borough website, and by publication in The Record with copies being sent to the Ridgewood News and Star Ledger.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The March 2020 Minutes were accepted with a motion to approve by Linda Morgan and seconded by Susan Toran.

**SECRETARY/REGISTRAR'S REPORT:**

Adult Health Clinic – 5 Adults – Clinic Closed Until Further Notice

Child Health Clinic – 1 Child

Vital Statistic      --1 Marriage, 0 Births, 0 Deaths

Receipts              -- 0 Receipts

**COMMUNICATONS/CORRESPONDNCE:**

None reported

**HEALTH OFFICER SANITARY REPORTS:**

Our Sanitarian March complaints were as follows: There was a complaint against Acme and their glove use. Proper procedures were reviewed and discussed with Acme management.

Dunkin Donuts bathrooms were not open to the public. Our sanitarian confirmed that there were no plumbing issues. The problem was that they were low on their bathroom supplies and were saving those limited supplies for their employees.

Nadine asked Kristin if she had any idea of what restaurants were open or closed in Allendale. Kristen replies she did not exactly know because some restaurants were open then closed and some were closed and then opened.

Nadine also asked if the restaurants still must follow the same sanitary procedures as before. Kristin stated that all restaurants must follow Chapter 24, which is the New Jersey State Sanitary Code.

## **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

The Board of Health President, Nadine Benoit appreciated and thanked everyone for their participation in joining in on the teleconference.

Both Nadine and Linda Morgan are involved with the town OEM task force and were happy to share information regarding the COVID-19. They both are grateful to represent the Allendale Board of Health and to be the interface with the Bergen County Department of Health Services.

Nadine shared the following websites regarding information on the COVID-19

[www.Allendalenj.gov](http://www.Allendalenj.gov)

[www.covid-19.nj.gov](http://www.covid-19.nj.gov) (maintained by the NJ Dept of Health)

Information can also be obtained by calling:

211 for information on Covid19  
1-800-962-1253 (manned 24/7)

Nadine moved on to the current testing information.

At this point, testing is for symptomatic individuals only (fever, shortness of breath, and fatigue). The following testing locations are available:

Bergen Community College (New Jersey residents only) – open Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. This site opens at 8 am. They have the capacity to do 500 tests during the week.

New Bridge Medical Center (Bergen County residents and municipal employees, regardless of where they live). You must go through New Bridge Telehealth which can

be found on the New Bridge Medical Center website. There will be a screening questionnaire to see if you meet the criteria. You may also get a prescription from your doctor or health care provider to go to New Bridge Medical Center. They are giving priority to first responders and health care professionals.

Another option is if you are symptomatic and need to be tested you can call your health care provider or go to an Urgent Care. They will send your test for processing to a private lab, i.e. Quest or LabCorp.

Nadine introduced Mayor Ari Bernstein for his update:

Mayor Bernstein stated that the OEM team has been meeting, having telephone conversations once or twice a week, and exchanging emails back and forth in order to obtain information which we can then pass along to our residents.

Borough Hall has taken steps to protect everyone by closing the Borough to foot traffic. Borough Hall is functioning as normal as possible and all Departments are actively doing their work, trying to keep services to all residents up and running.

The Celery Farm has been closed; due to non-compliance with social distancing executive orders.

Crestwood Lake remains open for passive exercise and walking. Our police are trying to make sure everyone maintains their required social distancing.

The Borough of Allendale cannot continue to keep the recycling center open. Curbside pickup will continue which will accommodate everyone.

The compost area will be closed as this can put our residents and employees at risk if it remains open.

We are at a critical period and we are treating it as such. The number of cases is 16. The number continues to rise somewhat but is still considered low.

The Mayor stressed the importance of keeping people following the guidelines of staying inside, where it is safe, and to continue practicing social distancing.

Nadine then introduced Sgt. Lawler for an update.

Sgt. Lawler stated that donations for N95 masks are going well. Thank you to all who participated in the community.

Adolescent boys were reported playing ball at Northern Highlands High School. Officers responded and explained the guideline to the boys, which they understood and

left without incident. APD continues to conduct Acme walk-throughs. The APD thanks the residents for their support.

Nadine thanked the Police, EMS and Fire Department, for a phenomenal job during this crisis.

Nadine called upon Scott Zieber to explain his role as OEM director.

Scott thanked Nadine and Linda for their work as members of the OEM team and thanked our sanitarian for her quick response to the Acme problem.

Scott emphasized the importance of social distancing which is a safety net. He urged everyone to stay home as much as possible in order to protect themselves and their families. What OEM does- We plan, we mitigate and put into practice, and we perform recovery efforts after emergencies, whether manmade, a natural disaster or health emergencies. We facilitate chain of command from the President right down to Federal, State, County, and Local levels. We plan and practice for such emergencies to get whatever is needed to deal with these situations.

One of the biggest challenges we face right now is the lack of PPE. We expect to receive supplies soon. Our current supply is running extremely low. Scott once again urged everyone to practice the guidelines and to stay safe.

Mayor Bernstein thanked Scott for his dedication and professionalism. The conversation was opened to the Board members and Robin shared her provider perspective. She stated that we are not near the peak. The peak should hit within the next 15/16 days. She shared that this was an incredibly difficult situation to watch. Robin spoke about the difficult medical situations in Nursing Homes and Assistant Living Facilities. She wished she had better news but as it stands right now things are still critical.

#### **MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC**

No one came forward.

A motion to adjourn was made by Heidi and was seconded by Robin. The meeting adjourned at 8.45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Pistone  
Board of Health Secretary

