

Minutes of the Board of Health Special Meeting via Teleconferencing

Due to the State of Emergency

June 4, 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 members were present: Heidi Askin, Maria Crean (absent), Robin Iversen, Chris Martin, Linda Morgan, Susan Toron, and Nadine Benoit. Also present was our Sanitarian, Kristin Caperino, Scott Zieber Director of OEM, Sharyesse Frasco-CERT, Tom Viscardi-Crestwood Lake Director.

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 May 4, 2020 minutes were accepted with a motion to approve by Robin Iversen and seconded by Chris Martin.

SECRETARY/REGISTRAR'S REPORT:

Adult Health Clinic Closed Until Further Notice

Child Health Clinic Closed Until Further Notice

Vital Statistic 3 Marriage License, 3 Marriage Certificate, 0 Births, 0 Deaths

Receipts \$26

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE:

New Mobile Testing Sites

HEALTH OFFICER/SANITARY REPORTS:

Kristin stated In May she started the virtual inspections and as of today all establishments have been completed and compliant. Starting today she will be working on outdoor dining and will inspect the outdoor areas.

We had a complaint about the dumpster behind Goldberg's Famous Bagels overflowing with trash. We returned and the situation was resolved.

There was one dog bite, and the dog was released from quarantine.

Crestwood Lake is opening June 20th. Our inspector found some issues that still needed to be taken care of to comply with the Governor's Executive orders to open. We will revisit Crestwood Lake before opening to do another inspection. Robin asked Kristen if the snack stand would also be open on June 20th. Kristen said she is working with the lake and if the Snack stand wants to open, she will do an inspection there.

Nadine informed Robin that the plans for the snack stand is to serve food on the opposite side of where the bathrooms are. Therefore, the members using the bathroom facilities will be separated from the snack stand members getting food.

Nadine stated that they received a very comprehensive plan from Amy Wilczynski our councilwomen regarding all the standards they will implement at the lake. Health inspector, Steve Salerno, is working with Tom Viscardi, Lake Director, to complete updates for the final inspection which will allow the lake to open on June 20th.

Nadine asked if the water samples from the lake are taken by an outside company and Tom confirmed that is correct.

OLD BUSINESS:

Heidi listened in on the Suicide Prevention teleconference. She thought much of what was being discussed was pretty much a basic intro to this topic. She thought an important fact she wants to pass forward is do not hesitate to ask or to say to someone, Are you OK? You need to trust your instincts. If you think something is up, you are probably right

Later in the meeting, Heidi wanted to add one more point to this discussion. Do not ever be afraid to just say directly, are you thinking of committing suicide. Bringing up that question to someone who is not suicidal will not put the idea in his or her head.

NEW BUSINESS/ PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Nadine wanted to share information regarding the Community Mobile Covid 19 testing. The only dates the public could take advantage would be June 5th in Oradell, New Milford, and River Edge, but I am sure they would accept other Bergen County residents. It is a free community Covid 19 test. The test is a saliva Covid 19 and they will also have antibody testing available, but you must have tested positive for Covid 19 and have proof of that.

To find out information regarding Governor Murphy's plan Nadine advises the public to go to www.Covid-19.nj.gov. This is New Jersey's state website which is excellent and supplies a large amount of information.

As most of you know we are entering Stage 2 in New Jersey and we are on track for opening on Monday, June 15th. The reason they announce the new stage in advance is to prepare to get policies and procedures in place on the state level to open safely.

Outdoor dining to begin on June 15th as well as limited retail. Hair salons and barbershops will open on June 22nd. Youth summer programs will begin on July 6th. There is not too much information on limited fitness and gyms. Limited in-person government services, motor vehicle, museums, and libraries also do not have much information.

The numbers have gone down a bit and we have flattened the curve. For the public continue to use masks and keep practicing social distancing because we know it works. Nadine advised taking precautions if you are living with or taking care of an older adult you should be very vigilant about going out as far as masking and gatherings. You do not want to bring home anything to that susceptible senior citizen you are living with.

Robin asked if the Borough is increasing or allowing any differences for outdoor dining licenses for any of the restaurants that never had outdoor dining in the past.

Another question was are they going to consider street closings to increase outdoor dining space like they are in Montclair. Nadine asked Scott to comment and he said he had no information. Carolyn Pistone stated that Anthony and Ron were looking into those issues.

The Chamber of Commerce is looking into having outdoor dining, but nothing is definite yet.

Nadine said that our town and the mayor are very much in support of promoting the restaurants and helping them out, but I think it is a little too premature to talk about an exact plan.

Nadine asked Carolyn if she already furnished some outdoor dining licenses. Carolyn replied she is receiving applications and Anthony is going through the process especially in consideration of social distancing.

Robin stated we do not have a date for the library with curbside. Nadine said she has been in touch with some of the leadership at the library and we are still waiting for a hard opening and more direction from the state, which probably will come next week.

That is part of Phase 2 and I've already connected Chris Martin who is working with some of the library personnel leadership and I also connected him with someone at the county who will work with them to make sure that they understand all of the state requirements and recommendations.

Nadine called on Chris Martin to speak about the library meeting. Chris said there was a task force that the library board put together to figure out what needs to happen just to get back in the building, never mind serving residents. And then a slow rollout starting with book drop reopening and then curbside. It is true that Stage 2 for the library is being pushed out a little bit and I am not sure of the date. I heard that it might be early July but nothing definitive yet.

Nadine wanted to thank the Board of Health and everyone involved for their participation because we never had to deal with this type of public health emergency.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Scott Zieber said he knows he said it before, but he cannot thank Nadine and Linda enough for their invaluable contributions to the Office of Emergency Management. You have been a great asset to us, and we deeply appreciate both of your efforts.

We continue to monitor for compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders and we continue to go through the reopening for businesses throughout the town and the state. We are monitoring and reviewing a ton of information. A lot is coming out about our return to normalcy. If you will, OEM is back to monitoring the hurricane season that we are in now. It is nice to know that the OEM is getting back to some normal part of our job responsibilities.

ADJOURNMENT:

Before the adjournment Nadine told the board that they usually do not meet in July or August. During this time Nadine suggested having meetings in the summer and the board agreed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susan Toron and seconded by Heidi Askin. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Pistone

Board of Health Secretary

