

BOUND BROOK BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Lisa Slater at 6:00 P.M. with the following statement:

“This meeting held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the Law have been met by the Special Meeting Notice being forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on September 23, 2015.”

ROLL CALL:

The following members were present: Judy Bailey, Richard Eschle, Angela Robinson, Lisa Slater, and Mary Straub.

The following were also present: Kevin G. Sumner, Health Officer and Nancy Lanner, REHS.

PUBLIC SESSION:

No public was present. Public portion of meeting closed.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

- A. Robinson moved for acceptance of the minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting. Motion seconded by J. Bailey. All in favor.

COMMISSION:

- A. K. Sumner advised the members that the Commission will hold its annual meeting in Green Brook on Thursday, October 8. This event will include a blood drive, a flu clinic, and the meeting beginning at 7:00 pm. A light supper will be provided for Board members attending the meeting. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- B. The fall flu clinics have been scheduled. The first was held this date in Warren at Our Lady of the Mount Catholic Church. A second public clinic will be held October 8 from 5 pm to 6 pm in Green Brook. In addition, Dr. Frank will hold a clinic at the high school for school district staff.
- C. The fall rabies clinics have been scheduled with Bound Brook’s being held on Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 11:00 am to noon at the rear of Borough Hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. K. Sumner distributed the Princeton Ordinance raising the legal age to purchase tobacco products to 21. He advised members that North Plainfield also considered this action, but chose not to pursue it due to considerable ‘push-back’ from the business community. They expressed that by raising the age in one town customers will go to the next town over to purchase items and it will impact their business. Members agreed the best course of action would be a state-wide law increasing the age. A bill is pending in the legislature, but has seen no action. Members asked the Health Officer to prepare a resolution and cover letter supporting state legislation for the next meeting.
- B. K. Sumner reported on the Shaping NJ grant received by Healthier Somerset and its benefits to Bound Brook. As a result of the grant several nutrition seminars were held at the recreation facilities, vouchers were given to residents to purchase fresh produce at the Farmer’s Market, the Borough passed a Complete Streets resolution and is receiving bike racks to help promote active living. Complete Streets is a process and philosophy in which streets are made accessible and safe for not only motor vehicles, but also walking and biking. This helps promote active living.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Members reviewed the activities reports for June, July, and August 2015 which resulted in the following discussion items:
- Mediterraneo Bakery – Members reported seeing unrefrigerated sandwiches available for purchase. N. Lanner will check but has not witnessed this at time of inspection.
 - Bedbugs – Members asked about bedbug complaints and response. N. Lanner reported that most times the landlords are responsive and take care of the problem. When there is a pre-existing landlord-tenant dispute it can be more difficult to get action.
 - Shoprite – Members asked about birds in the store. N. Lanner reported this has gotten much better, but there are still occasional complaints.
 - Communicable diseases – Members asked about Babesiosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Members were advised we are seeing many more tick borne diseases like these throughout the Commission. The Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever was not confirmed in this particular case.
 - Torpedos – Members were advised about a grease issue in the sewers to the rear of this establishment. No specific source was found, but all food establishments were advised to dispose of grease appropriately.
 - Bound Brook Hotel – Members asked about the complaint at the boarding house. N. Lanner reported the complaint was forwarded to the state for follow-up as they have authority and we do not.
 - Cherry Avenue – Property maintenance complaint. N. Lanner advised she inspected and found no water in the pool and no health violations at the property.

- B. Right to Know – K. Sumner advised members that the Borough had not filed its right to know survey of potentially hazardous materials in several years and as a result received a violation notice from the state. In order to address this issue the Borough and the Commission entered into an agreement that the Commission will complete the survey for the Borough. This service was routinely provided to the Borough by the Commission prior to the Borough reducing health services to part time.
- C. Mayor & Council – K. Sumner reported that at the request of the Borough Administrator, Sumner met with the Mayor & Council at a Council meeting and provided a presentation on what public health is, who the Commission is, and the services we provide to the Borough. There apparently has been some discussion about checking the County for public health services and the Administrator wanted the Council to hear and know what the Commission is and does. The presentation went well and lasted about a half hour, with good discussion following.

ADDENDUM:

K. Sumner reported to the Board members, that discussions about increasing N. Lanner’s hours in town are being held between himself and the Administrator. Sumner reminded members that he has long felt Bound Brook needs full time health services. Now, the construction official is also interested in seeing more health hours as Nancy acts as the eyes and ears of the code official when she is in the field. She can identify issues and report them back to code enforcement for action. They have a very good working relationship and this system works well. The increasing fairs, festivals, and needs of the community are all reasons to have fulltime health services. The number of weekend events requiring after hours work impacts the routine hours due to unavailability of staff to be present. There is some hope that funds can be found to support fulltime services. The Board members all expressed a desire to see this occur and M. Straub made a motion to increase public health services to full time services. The motion was seconded by J. Bailey and all members were in favor.

L. Slater asked about rabies protection for pets. Sumner reported that as part of the advertising for the rabies clinics information was included on rabies and how to protect pets and people. This was sent to papers as well as to the Borough for distribution.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Board, A. Robinson moved to adjourn at 7:25 P.M., seconded by J. Bailey. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin G. Sumner
Health Officer