

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM

President Cheriyan stated that notice of this meeting held via Zoom was posted on the Bergenfield Website, sent by e-mail to the Record and Cablevision. It was placed on two bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and placed on file in the Borough Clerk's office.

ROLL CALL

President Cheriyan
Mrs. Pfannen
Mr. Cabuhat
Dr. Quiroz- Absent
Mrs. Marte- Absent

Also present, Mrs. Delacruz, Ms. Grippo, Ms. Lesnak, Ms. Barker , Ms. Williams, Mrs. Epstein and Mrs. Pancho, Bergenfield Residents

OPEN HEARING

Ms. August is concerned with the rising increase in smoke shops in Bergenfield. Ms. August added that she has been in public service for 35 years and stated that public health has brought down the number of smokers; she is concerned about the increase in vaping. She inquired if there was a limit in Bergenfield on the number of smoke shops. Ms. August stated people in town are very concerned. Ms. Williams mentioned currently there is no limit on how many smoke shops are allowed. This concern must be addressed with the zoning / planning board and the Building Dept. Ms. Williams stated the shops must go through the vetting process with her prior to opening. Ms. Williams also mentioned that Bergenfield currently has two licensed smoke shops, she confirmed she has done spot checks on the two smoke shops in November, and at this time they are complying. In addition, Ms. Williams stated she has sent a notice of violation to one of the shops in reference to an email regarding the sale of flavored vapes. Ms. Grippo stated she attended the "TAZE" meeting. The program went around in late September and confirmed that Bergenfield was on the list as one of the towns that are most in compliance with the vaping and smoking ordinances. President Cheriyan confirmed with Ms. Williams that no current applications are pending for new smoke shops. Ms. Williams reiterated that Ms. August should address her concerns with the zoning office and planning board regarding the opening of any additional smoke shops. Ms. August appreciated Ms. Williams' inspection of the the smoke shops and stated she thinks it is a great job since it is the month of the "Great American Smoke Out".

President Cheriyan, stated that the Board received an email from Ms. Stanton regarding the pickle ball court and the noise pollution it is causing homeowners and senior citizens. Ms. Stanton, stated she raised this concern two years ago with the Bergen record and the organization at the county prior to the application being approved by the Mayor and Mr. Gallo. Mrs. Delacruz stated that the noise ordinance should apply, and the police department would be able to enforce this ordinance since the players start at 7am.

Mrs. Delacruz also suggested that the Recreation Dept should be notified. Ms. Stanton raised several concerns regarding the start time of 7am, unlocked gates, lighting etc. Ms. Stanton feels that 8am is too early and also confirmed that was mentioned or planned to buffer the sound. She mentioned padding and fences around the courts. Ms. Stanton stated that she has witnessed people climb over the fence to access the court. Mrs. Stanton clarified that prior to the opening of the pickle ball court she had raised these issues with the police department, Mayor and Council and the Bergen Record via email.

President Cheriyan mentioned that buffering the sound may not be possible since it is an open area. Ms. Stanton stated that the courts are open to the public since the area is considered green acres. Ms. Stanton has requested the DPW and Police dept to post dedicated cameras to the police computer desk. She has not received a response to this request. Ms. Stanton stated that occasionally at night around 9pm a police patrol car enters into the park via clover street, and they flash the lights. She feels that this is done so the police department has a record of monitoring the park.

President Cheriyan requested Kayla to visit this area and make some suggestions regarding the issues that have been raised. Ms. Stanton remarked that other than herself she does not think that any homeowners have notified the health, police, recreation, and administration regarding this matter. Vice President Pfannan agrees with Ms. Stanton’s concerns and feels that the Health Department may be able to assist her. President Cheriyan stated that all the concerns have been noted and Ms. Williams along with Mr. Fedorko, Ms. Barker will investigate the matter and provide a response. President Cheriyan thanked all for coming and raising their concerns.

There being no one present who wished to be heard, on a motion by Vice-President Pfannan seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried the time for Open Hearings was closed.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice President Pfannan seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting of October 2023 be accepted as written.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Mrs. DeLaCruz stated that on behalf of President Cheriyan, Purchase Orders have been signed by Mrs. DeLaCruz and submitted.

A motion was made by Mr. Cabuhat seconded by Vice President Pfannan and carried that the following bills were reviewed and approved.

Bauer Sports Shop-	\$	332.00
Control Solutions, Inc	\$	67.00
Safe Sitter -	\$	460.00
Tyco-	\$	2,966.66

REPORTS**Legal and Finance**

Mrs. Marte "Absent"

Medical

Dr. Quiroz "Absent"

Personnel

"Progress"

Publicity

The Board of Health meeting was advertised on the Bergenfield Website, The Record and Cablevision.

Liaison To Mayor & Council

Councilman Deauna "Absent"

Legislature & Regulatory

Mr. Cabuhat stated he has spoken to Mr. Fedorko and he believes Mr. Fedorko is working on a new feral cat ordinance.

Written Reports of the Department:

In the absence of Mr. Fedorko, Kelly Grippo attended the meeting. Ms. Grippo reviewed Mr. Fedorko's monthly report. Ms. Grippo stated that this week the NJDOH has provided the flu and respiratory illness surveillance report which was used as a guide for individuals and communities related to respiratory measures currently in Bergen County and the entire state. Bergen County currently has a low flu activity level and there have been no flu confirmed pediatric deaths this season. In Table No. 4 this report shows the historic pediatric flu mortality rate in NJ 2017-18 were 5 deaths in 2018 and in 2019 there were 6 deaths and in 2023 there were 2 confirmed pediatric covid deaths reported. There were also 72 confirmed covid cases in Bergenfield in October and as of November 7th there are 10 cases. Currently reported were 4 cases of flu from October 1 to November. In addition to Covid and Flu, RSV is also now part of the surveillance data, RSV confirmed cases were currently slightly below the 5-year average. Ms. Grippo stated that there are covid tests available suggested that they could be given out at the Food Bank. President Cheriyan stated we need to be mindful on the expiration of the covid tests. Vice President Pfannan stated covid is on the rise again and President Cheriyan stated that we may see a spike after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Ms. Grippo mentioned the Enhancing Local Public Health Grant. Ms. Grippo confirmed that Mid Bergen Regional will be reimbursing \$ 35,600 for the year 2023 to the Bergenfield Health Department for the Animal Control Contract and will continue to try to reimburse the Health Department again in 2024.

Thanks to Mr. Fedorko. Ms. Grippo inquired about Christmas at Coopers Pond, and mentioned she would like to have a table to represent the Health Dept. at the event. Mrs. De La Cruz confirmed Holiday at the pond, will be held this year . She also mentioned that covid kits could be given out at the CHC and SAC clinic, since we have an influx of new patients at the clinics. President Cheriyan stated that the Department of Health has a stockpile of covid tests, and if needed the Health Department could try to request some.

President Cheriyan, inquired about the status of the RSV vaccine, Ms. Cruz confirmed she received a recent email from the Department of Health which stated that the RSV vaccine is still in limited supply. Ms. Cruz stated she has continued to provide flu and covid boosters to the homebound. Ms. Cruz commented on the monthly Barrier Free Dance for the Disabled Children, she stated that many food donations were received from local businesses and the event went well considering the limited advertising. Ms. Cruz, stated that photos were posted on the Boroughs Instagram and Facebook pages by AJ.

Ms. Williams wanted to Thank the Kudos Society, Cross Roads Deli, Aldi, Grand and Essex, Foster village Kosher deli, and the Big Discount Warehouse.

A motion was made by Vice-President Pfannen, seconded Mr. Cabuhat and carried that, the November 2023 reports of the Department be accepted as written.

Correspondence

No "Correspondence"

Unfinished business

No "Unfinished Business "

New Business:

"No New Business"

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Dr Cheriyan inquired about the Rabies clinic scheduled for Sunday December 10th.

Mrs. DeLaCruz confirmed that it has been scheduled and will be a drive thru clinic, Mrs. Delacruz stated she has contacted Tyco animal control regarding the clinic. Mrs. Delacruz also stated she has confirmed with Bergen County, that 200 vaccines have been allocated for the clinic. Mrs. Delacruz stated the clinic date and time has been posted on the website and will be reposted by AJ closer to the clinic.

President Cheriyan mentioned the draft of the special events ordinance and the mayor's email.

President Cheriyan inquired about the difference in a permit and license. Ms. Williams explained the difference of special events permits, and licenses which are very specific to special events. Ms. Williams stated that in the event that a special event permit needs to be revoked and the current ordinance states that she will need to have an informal meeting with the Board of Health or Health officer prior to the revocation of a license, this is not feasible for a special event permit, because special event permits are also "one day permits".

President Cheriyan said he thought that if it is a commissary that it is piggy backing on another establishments license as a permit and Ms. Williams explained that it is a license in this example since the commercial facility is being used by the mobile retail establishment, they would be required to have a commissary agreement from that establishment. Ms. Williams explained the mobile retail establishment ordinance that the Mayor and Council had adopted in 2021 specifies licenses being given to temporary retail establishments or "food trucks" basically who are stationary in town so the definition has to be separate.

President Cheriyan inquired about the maximum time allowed for the temporary license. Ms. Williams mentioned it is 5 days and anything between 5 and 30 days is considered a temporary retail license. President Cheriyan asked if this is combined for both and if it will be a single license, Ms. Williams explained it is a separate application since this process is already in place and it is a matter of having the requirements in the Ordinance. If a permit, is required for a special event like at Coopers Pond that food vendor would submit the required documents including a commissary agreement, if necessary, an evaluation placard and they would be vetted. Ms. Barker and Ms. Williams would review the application and if they had any questions upon review they would contact the vendor via phone, email or both. Once all the paperwork has been reviewed and approved by the Health Dept. Mr. Gallo would approve and sign off on the permit. Ms. Barker and Ms. Williams would conduct the inspection on the day of the Special Event.

Special Event permits are the only permits given. Temporary permits are not given, retail food establishment permits are not given, we give retail licenses, temporary licenses, and mobile vendor licenses. Right now, the Ordinance says licenses or permits there is no, 'Or' we only give licenses unless there is a special event when a permit is given. Vice President Pfannan inquired on the progress Ms. Williams has made on trying to make the process "universal" Ms. Williams stated she has made no progress however since the last meeting Ms. Williams has been voted vice president for the Northern NJ Public Health Association Ms. Williams plans to use this platform to contact Jessica Swiff from the State who is looking to unify the Northern New Jersey counties. The Board congratulated Ms. Williams on her appointment to Vice President for the Northern NJ Public Health Association.

President Cheriyan's concern was that the small business owners are being supported. Ms. Williams said that she is not creating anything new these are the standards that the mobile vendors are held to when they come in since we are permitting them to serve food to our residents in the public community, we have to ensure that the food is served is safe on levels. The process clarifies to the vendors that this is what we are looking for and going forward making it Universal. Ms. Williams asked if Ms. Barker had anything additional to add Ms. Barker congratulated Ms. Williams' election and mentioned that at that same meeting there was a discussion on having one set of rules and if we do it first Bergenfield will be a model to the other municipalities which will adopt the same code. Ms. Barker stated that nothing different has been done in the past it is only codifying the ordinance so all vendors and event coordinators can apply the rules from Code 360. Ms. Williams stated the next step would be for Mrs. Delacruz and Ms. Williams to format the amendment for a resolution and present it formally to the board for a first reading.

President Cheriyan stated the 2-week time frame to process the application would be extended since Ms. Williams requires additional processing time. Ms. Williams stated the 14-day time frame is required so that the event coordinator can receive the application in time and then forward it to Ms. Williams for processing. Ms. Williams also stated that the town should provide a list of vendors 21 days prior to the event.

President Cheriyan congratulated Mrs. Epstein on her accomplishment of receiving a certificate for the safe sitter program, President Cheriyan thanked her for her service to the town and the schools. Mrs. Epstein stated that the safe sitter program is offered to students in Grades 7 through 9 to become certified baby sitters and also mentioned she has an influx of phone calls from parents and student regarding the training and registration.

Vice President Pfannan, inquired about the Senior Center. Mrs. Pancho stated that since August the Nurses visit the Senior Center every 1st Wednesday of the month. The nurses monitor weight and vital signs of the seniors and they are trying to educate and teach the seniors on how their weight affects blood pressure. Mrs. Pancho mentioned that the head of the senior Center, requested quarterly teaching on nutrition and other programs for seniors. Mrs. Pancho, Mrs. Epstein, and Ms. Cruz taught a mental health program on November 8th, the next program on nutrition substitutes will be on December 13th.

The Senior Center is happy with the services and the new programs the nurses are providing the community, Ms. Grippo offered her assistance if needed. Mrs. Epstein commented on the coat drive that was held at Conlon Hall on November 5th 2023, she stated it was a success and over 100 coats were distributed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Vice-President Pfannan, seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

AnneMarie Delacruz
Registrar of Vital Statistics