

Princeton Board of Health Minutes
Monthly Meeting
January 20, 2015
Monument Hall – East Meeting Room
One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08542

Present:

Board Members:

George DiFerdinando, M.D
Joann Hill, RN
Laura Kahn, MD
Steven Miller, PhD
Charles Rojer, M.D., Chairman
Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH
Rick Weiss, MS

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser, MHS, HO
V Bea Snowdon

Liaisons and Guests:

Elizabeth Bidwell Bates HSC
Heather Howard, Council

Absent:

Lauren Babcock Dunning, MPH

I. Call to Order

At 7:37PM, Chairman Rojer called the meeting to order by affirming: “This meeting of the Princeton Board of Health has been duly advertised and is being conducted in compliance with all provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.”

II. Reorganization of the Board – Nominations

JoAnn Hill nominated Charles Rojer to direct the proceedings of the Board of Health in the role of Chairman. Laura Kahn seconded this motion. All voted in favor of this nomination.

Charles Rojer’s nomination of Laura Kahn to serve as Vice Chairman was seconded by Jo Ann Hill. All voted in favor of the motion to appoint Laura Kahn to the post of Vice Chairman.

Laura Kahn nominated Joann Hill to the post of Board Secretary. George DiFerdinando seconded this nomination, with all voting in favor of the appointment of Joann Hill.

III. Oath of Office

The Oath of Office for all returning Board members and officers was distributed and reviewed. A formal copy was personalized, signed by each Board Member present, and submitted for the record.

Board Members also received and signed acknowledgements for their Board Member Handbooks.

IV. Roll Call

The absence of Lauren Babcock Dunning was noted.

V. Public Comment & Guest

There was no response to the Chairman’s request for public comment.

VI. Minutes – December 16, 2014

A revision of the PEC report was discussed and accommodated. A motion to accept the revised minutes was made by Laura Kahn and seconded by Steven Miller. All present voted in favor of acceptance.

VII. Monthly Reports

Health Officer's Report

Observing that the 2014 Child Health Conference schedule was not well established, Mr. Grosser met with UMCP staff to discuss a set pediatric clinic schedule. The 3rd Tuesday of every month is now designated as the Child Health Conference program time at UMCP. It is hoped that this commitment, from UMCP, will alleviate any scheduling concerns going forward.

The success of the WIC Clinic in Princeton continues. This month a walk-in, with proper documentation, was accepted and seen along with 40 scheduled clients for the month of December.

Princeton's Public Health Nurse, Kathy Korwin, will now be working 1.5 days every week. This is an improvement on the 2 to 3 hours that had been allotted weekly for nursing support in the past. Nurse Korwin is performing TB screenings for all Princeton Public School faculty and Corner House employees. Nurse Korwin has also developed an Adult and Senior Health Screening program, through the Princeton Senior Resource Center and all senior housing sites. The services provided in this new program include vision screening, hearing screening, BP screening, patient education, and referral advice when necessary.

Due to unacceptable bacteria readings, the YMCA pool was recently closed. After two days, the pool was cleared for use.

Following 4 exposures in Hamilton, N.J., no additional Hepatitis A cases have been reported there. Zero cases have been reported in Princeton.

VIII. Old Business

Strategic Planning Update

With everyone engaged in the process, the success of the last planning meeting was noted. The strategic plan will "set the tone" for "where the Health Department is headed" in the next three to five years. Tracking and reporting numbers, to show the activity of staff, will be an important part of this program.

Hospital Demolition Update

To address hospital site concerns, Councilwoman Crumiller and Administrator Dashield are meeting this evening with members of the community. Equipment failures on the demolition site delayed the completion date of demolition by a few days. Witherspoon Street will remain closed on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week to ensure public safety, while the seven-story section of the hospital is removed. Councilwoman Heather Howard expressed concern about the difficulties created for Princeton residents.

Jeffrey Grosser has reviewed two complaints of a metallic taste, from pedestrians near the site, with Council. He also explained the action taken on dust and noise monitoring to Council members.

Members of the public have been encouraged to continue reporting any concerns, to the Health Department or the Engineering Department.

Councilwoman Howard commended Mr. Grosser for the quick action taken on noise complaints and other public concerns.

XI. New Business

G.A.S.P and Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation

Reporting that 88% of smokers begin smoking before age 18, anti-smoking campaign literature was distributed by George DiFerdinando, M.D. Details of campaigns by Global Action to Stop Pollution (GASP) and the Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation were discussed.

In response to concerns about the dangers of early exposure to smoke, Dr. DiFerdinando proposed a draft ordinance that would increase the cigarette sale age in Princeton to 21. This draft could be prepared for a first reading in February and a second reading in March. Three towns in New Jersey have passed an ordinance to set the age for cigarettes sales at 21 and above. All Board members present voiced support for this action. Laura Kahn suggested that an op-ed be written and released to the local papers to announce this ordinance.

Dr. DiFerdinando noted that 179 million dollars was spent in New Jersey last year for promotional sales of cigarettes. He added that additional research is needed on the impact of e-cigarettes.

New Board Member

The appointment of Linda Schwimmer as a new Board member was announced. She will fill the role of Second Alternate

Appointment

All present congratulated Jeffrey Grosser, for his election to the post of President of the Mercer County Health Officers Association.

X. Reports from Other Boards and Commissions

Reporting for the Princeton Environmental Commission (PEC), Steven Miller shared that PEC's liaison to Council is now Patrick Simon.

XI. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Charles Rojer motioned to adjourn. George DiFerdinando seconded the motion, with all others present voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:34PM.

Respectfully submitted, V Bea Snowdon