

Board of Health of the Borough of Allendale
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2020

PRESENT: Board President, Nadine Benoit and Board Members: Heidi Askin, Robin Iversen, Christopher Martin, Linda Morgan, and Susan Toron (via teleconference)

ABSENT: Board Member: Maria Crean

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Municipal Clerk: Michelle Ryan
(*in person*) Borough Sanitarian: Kristin Caperino

A Regular Session Meeting of the Board of Health of the Borough of Allendale was held on September 3, 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to the public was provided via GoToMeeting teleconferencing only, with adequate notice of same posted for public viewing. The meeting was called to order at 8:01p.m. by President Benoit who reminded the public to mute their devices so as not to distract from the business at hand. President Benoit confirmed that the open public meetings requirements had been satisfied.

Prior to starting the meeting, President Benoit advised everyone that Carolyn Pistone was no longer with the Borough and thanked Ms. Pistone for her service, especially during the pandemic.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Ms. Askin, second by Mr. Martin, with no objections and all members present in favor, that the Minutes of the August 20, 2020 Regular Session be approved.

Secretary/Registrar Report:

Ms. Ryan reported that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Adult and Child Health Clinics have been suspended until further notice. The Vital Statistics Monthly Report was received from Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission for August with two marriage certificates and one marriage license having been issued for a total of \$23.00 to the Borough.

Communications/Correspondence:

Ms. Ryan advised the Board, that the August Communicable Disease Report was received from Claudia Goetz on September 1st, which highlighted Bergen County Health Services' COVID-19 contact tracing efforts within the Borough. There were eleven telephonic and three postal mail follow-ups as well as eight reportable disease investigations for the month. Health Consultation Programs remain closed, but county nurses continue to reach out to active members monthly. This report had been previously emailed to the entire Board.

Health Officer/Sanitary Reports:

Ms. Caperino reported that Bergen County resumed in-person inspections of food establishments. All such establishments in Allendale complied virtually and there were no immediate issues that needed to be addressed at that time. An in-person inspection was done at Goldberg's, which did have some issues, but they are now posted satisfactory. On August 31st, Nirvana also had an in-person inspection, which revealed improper storage of food, critical cold-holding violations, and food contact surface violations. Food areas need to be cleaned and sanitized better. They have been posted conditional, with notice being sent to The Record, and will have up to two weeks to bring

Board of Health of the Borough of Allendale
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2020

into satisfactory condition. County inspectors also did inspections for potential food hazards during the August hurricane's power outages and advised food establishments of what food could be kept and what needed to be thrown away.

President Benoit inquired about the inspection process with restaurants now being allowed to resume indoor dining at 25% capacity. Ms. Caperino responded that the immediate inspection priority is for establishments that have been closed since the start of the pandemic and ones that did not have virtual inspections. All of Allendale's food establishments were open the whole time and had virtual inspections. The Governor's executive order authorizes the police to enforce the 25% limitation as well as social distancing and mask requirements. If anyone feels these are not being properly followed, they should call the police. Over the next month or two, Ms. Caperino advised that full inspections will be done at all food establishments as normal. President Benoit reminded the Board members to be the eyes and ears of the town.

President Benoit advised of a complaint received about a DPW employee not wearing a mask at the Recycling Center. Allendale Police were dispatched to follow up.

With no further questions, Ms. Askin motioned to accept the Health Officer/Sanitarian Report, with second from Mr. Martin.

Old Business:

The USRA Coalition held a meeting yesterday, however, due to scheduling conflicts neither Ms. Askin nor Ms. Iversen were able to attend. This agenda item will be carried to the October meeting.

Ms. Askin advised that another Northern Highlands graduate was lost to suicide recently. Board members expressed their sorrow for this loss. A link to Bergen County's comprehensive Mental Health Resources Guide has been put in the Borough's September newsletter as well as being posted on the Board of Health's department page on the Borough's website.

New Business:

Ms. Iversen questioned the absence of births and deaths in the Vital Statistics Monthly Report.

President Benoit confirmed that all Board members receive Bergen County email notifications such as the ones recently received concerning Lyme Disease education for schools and dog food recalls.

President's Report:

President Benoit advised that the most current information on COVID-19 can be found on covid19.nj.gov. She informed everyone that the Allendale and Northern Highlands School Districts are reopening on September 8th. She provided details on their re-entry plans, which are being implemented in line with the State's guidelines, and encouraged everyone to review the plans for themselves on the schools' websites. Their daily screening protocols are also posted on their websites. In response to questions about when school districts should contact Bergen County, if necessary, President Benoit provided highlights of the information she received from Bergen County. Superintendents should report any positive cases to the County. If there is only one positive case in a particular cohort, or by one teacher, they can make the decision to isolate these

Board of Health of the Borough of Allendale
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2020

people on their own and do not need permission from the County Health Department. However, if two or more people or cohorts tested positive for COVID 19, the County would need to be consulted as to school closure. The Bergen County Department of Health Services is always available for consultation.

Public Comment:

No public came forward to comment.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board of Health, on a motion by Ms. Iversen, with second by Mr. Martin, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk