

Board of Health of the Borough of Allendale  
Regular Session Meeting Minutes  
October 1, 2020

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Municipal Clerk Michelle Ryan *(in person)*  
Director of Communications John Gil *(in person)*  
Borough Sanitarian Kristin Caperino *(via teleconference)*

A Regular Session Meeting of the Board of Health of the Borough of Allendale was held on October 1, 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 8:00p.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 turned the meeting over Acting Clerk Michelle Ryan who advised the Board that the administration decided to bring the Board of Health's responsibilities under the Clerk's Office and that John Gil has joined the Borough as the Director of Communications and will be the primary contact for Board of Health issues. Mr. Gil introduced himself and gave a rundown of his experience.

***Approval of Minutes:***

Motion by Mr. Martin, second by Ms. Askin, with no objections and all members present in favor, that the Minutes of the September 3, 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 thirteen marriage certificates and three marriage license having been issued for a total of \$139.00 to the Borough.

Boardmember Iversen questioned about the death and births vital statistics. President Benoit replied that she spoke to the person at vital statistics and was advised that deaths are recorded through funeral homes and births are through the hospital. Since Allendale does not have those facilities it does not get recorded. Boardmember Iversen noticed the change over the last two months. Mr. Gil would look into the change.

***Communications/Correspondence:***

None

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***Health Officer/Sanitarian Reports:***

Ms. Caperino reported that Bergen County started reinspections in September. Mezza Luna, Asian Cuisine, Nirvana were reinspected last month. Masa Sushi was inspected right before COVID. They were given a virtual inspection but were given a reinspection.

She reported that a bat was found in a resident's home and tested negative for rabies and a woman was bitten by a stray cat that tested negative for rabies.

President Benoit questioned what "COVID 19 Compliance Assistance" meant in the reports. Ms. Caperino answered that they review proper social distancing and mask-wearing requirements that food establishments were given from the CDC. President Benoit inquired if she was satisfied with what they have been seeing at the establishments. Ms. Caperino replied in the affirmative and stated that any violations should be reported to the local police for quicker response times.

President Benoit asked about following up on the reinspection of Masa. Ms. Caperino replied that they will give them two weeks to correct any issues and will work with them to make sure they comply. There are no courts in session to hear summons so education is the priority.

Ms. Ryan and Ms. Caperino notified the Board that the individual at the Record who handled notification of compliance has retired and their currently is no replacement. As of now, the only public notification is through the compliance placard at the food establishment.

Further questions were asked about what would cause a food establishment to be shut down. Ms. Caperino stated that a sewage backup, power outage, an infestation would be the grounds for an immediate shutdown.

***Old Business:***

There were no updates from the USRA Coalition.

President Benoit inquired about the public notification of the cancellation of the flu clinic. Ms. Ryan informed the Board that the upcoming newsletter will have that information.

***New Business:***

President Benoit brought up holding a rabies clinic in January 2021 and discusses various options that others have held. John Gil would reach out to the Allendale Veterinary Hospital and Tyco regarding the veterinarian and technician as well as getting the rabies vaccine. Linda Morgan would check with the availability of the Fire House. A question of pet licensing was asked and if that should occur at the clinic, Ms. Ryan summarized how the Borough has been handling.

***President's Report:***

President Benoit encouraged everyone to get a flu shot and would be providing information on the differences in symptoms for inclusion in the November Newsletter. On the COVID website, COVID19.NJ.gov, there will be a data dashboard on school outbreaks broken down by county only and not by schools due to confidentiality. If there is a local outbreak that information would be

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provided by the District. The County numbers are currently low, she referred everyone to the Bergen County Department of Health Services website for current testing locations as well as the State's COVID website for travel restriction information. The CDC's website had an interesting article on the increase of COVID cases for the 18-22 age group as well as clusters on college campuses. A final article that was recommended was on hospitalized pregnant women.

President Benoit informed the Board that a school outbreak is defined as two or more students or staff testing positive. Depending on the outbreak, a class or cohort could be isolated and not the entire district being shut down. More than one class or cohort would mean an evaluation of a shutdown. The infected students would also have to have been exposed at the school and not an outside activity.

Robin Iverson informed the board that Valey Hospital has had zero to one admission a day to the ER with COVID and three active cases admitted. A complete COVID unit is still active. Most importantly, wear and mask and wash your hands. Gloves are not a replacement for washing your hands.

**Public Comment:**

Sharysse Frasco, asked about pet licenses online, noted that the agenda was not on the website, and inquired about the policy on Halloween. Mr. Gil stated that no decisions have been made and will notify the Board once there is more information.

No other comments were made.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Health, on a motion by Ms. Iversen, with second by Ms. Morgan, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



John Gil  
Director of Communications