

Rocky Hill Board of Health

Minutes of the Meeting of November 13, 2007

Members present: Lisbeth Haines, M.D. (presiding); Beverly Poelstra, M.D.; Mary Germain, Ed.D., APRN-BC, FNAP; Susan Fisher, V.M.D.; Stephen Papenberg, Health Officer.

Members not present: Margaret Querec, M.S.N, R.N.

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 P.M.

The minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2007 were reviewed. A motion was made by Dr. Haines and seconded by Dr. Germain to approve the minutes with two corrections (to the references made to A. Sheppard's absence, since she had already resigned at the time and to Dr. Poelstra's presence as she was excused from the meeting).

The minutes of September 11, 2007 were also reviewed and approved by a motion by Dr. Poelstra, seconded by Dr. Haines.

Report of the Health Officer

- An update was provided on the status of possible changes to the structure of the South Brunswick Health Department (consolidation with the Middlesex County health department). No decision has been made at this time. Our contract with South Brunswick for health services expires on December 31, 2007, but calls for the continuation of services for a period of six months, in the event that the contract is not renewed, or less if replacement services are obtained sooner. There was discussion of contacting the health officer of Princeton Township, David Henry, to explore the possibility of contracting his services for our borough. Mr. Papenberg agreed to contact him.
- Mr. Papenberg distributed the preliminary report commissioned by the State department of health, studying New Jersey's local public health system. The final report, due December 31, 2007, will discuss recommendations based on these findings.
- Copies of the Somerset County CHIP for 2007 were distributed to members for their review and will be discussed at a future board meeting.
- Copies of various written materials discussing the problems of MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staph. Aureus) and ESBL (Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamase Enterobacteriaceae), as well as a fact sheet for the public, were distributed. These included handouts provided at a recent presentation on the subject in Somerville, N.J., attended by Mr. Papenberg and Dr. Fisher.

Old Business

- There was discussion of the Municipal Alliance and its relevance to Rocky Hill. It was decided that Dr. Poelstra will attend meetings starting in January.
- There was discussion of what content to put into the next Community Calendar. A decision was deferred until the next meeting as the Calendar will not come out until

January. One possible item would be an educational piece on smoking cessation to tie in with the Great American Smokeout, which was on November 15th.

New Business

- NALBOH (National Association of Local Boards of Health) membership cards were distributed by Dr. Haines.
- Toby Whitlock, Deputy Registrar, will be retiring. He has been in charge of Vital Statistics. Donna Griffiths, the Registrar, will be consulted to determine whether she will be replacing Mr. Whitlock, or whether it might be possible to have the county take over the responsibility.
- Dr. Haines began a discussion on communication options between the Board of Health and the residents of the borough, as well as between the members of the board. The Community Calendar will not be produced after the next issue. We can include information in the final issue but need a plan to communicate with the borough residents after that. Venues suggested for posting of information included the post office, library, local businesses frequented by the community (Shop Rite, Buy the Cup), the "76'ers", senior transportation buses and area churches. It was also suggested that dissemination through the schools be used, but it was acknowledged that this would only reach a segment of the population. E-mail and the official Rocky Hill website were briefly discussed but, again, they would not be accessed by a portion of the older residents. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting.
- Mr. Papenberg brought up the idea of participation in the Neighborhood Watch program.

The time of the next meeting was confirmed to be Tuesday December 11, 2007 at 4:30P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 P.M. following a motion by Dr. Poelstra and seconded by Dr. Fisher.

Submitted by Susan Fisher