

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROCKY HILL BOARD OF HEALTH
January 9, 2007

Present – Mary Germain, Lisbeth Haines, Stephen Papenberg, Beverly Poelstra.
(Peggy Querec present for latter half of meeting)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 410 pm by Mary Germain, presiding.

2. Reorganization of Officers

Nomination for Lisbeth Haines to become president was made by Mary Germain and seconded by Beverly Poelstra. All in favor. Position of Vice President remains with Beverly Poelstra with responsibilities of Secretary to be rotated among the members.

3. Review of minutes of November 30, 2006 meeting

Motion to approve without any revisions made by Beverly Poelstra and seconded by Mary Germain. Unanimously approved.

4. Report of Health Officer

A. Although at the last BOH meeting 11/30/06 the annual contract with the South Brunswick Health Department for the provision of Public Health Services was unanimously approved and submitted to council, the contract will be amended to read “2007” instead of “2006” and the name of the BOH President will be changed to Lizbeth Haines. As previously noted, the contract does not include fees for animal control (specifically, deer) which will be negotiated separately. Mary Germain moved to accept this contract as amended, which was seconded by Beverly Poelstra.

B. Mr Papenberg shared a notice about the Flu clinic open to all Somerset County Residents to be held 1/23/07 at Somerville Elks in Bridgewater.

C. Governmental Public Health Partnership meeting held 1/5/07.

BRFS survey discussed. They are in the process of creating a CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan) which is due in February utilizing the funds remaining from BRFS survey. Since Bergen County has created the first CHIP and this was approved, plans are to use this as a template as far as the level of detail expected, however our needs may not be exactly the same. Since South Brunswick and Rocky Hill are in separate counties, separate CHIPs may need to be created. It was noted that Rocky Hill has several special needs subgroups, such as Eden House for individuals with autism and the ARC home, for adults with disabilities which make our needs unique.

D. Somerset County Health Officers Meeting -

Dr. Tina Tan of NH State DOH gave a presentation on the e. coli outbreak and the association with Taco Bell restaurants. Many issues were raised since this issue crossed

jurisdictional lines. There was a general lack of communication and many inconsistencies in how different communities approached this problem. The state will assess the types of problems encountered and how to avoid a repeat scenario. Kevin Sumpter, president of NJ Health officer's association maintains that once an outbreak has been identified, there is a need to communicate this effectively to the entire state.

- E. There have been indications from the state that there will be a 15% decrease in Bioterrorism funding for the counties this year.
- F. Discussion of delivery of influenza vaccinations due to mismatch of supply and distribution. Many flu clinics were cancelled again this year due to lack of supply. Suppliers tend to sell to their largest buyers first, leaving small towns without available stock.
- G. Senate Bill 2244 sponsored by Representative Gusciora regarding consolidation of local Health Officers was stalled due to lack of cosponsor. Stay tuned.
- H. Local Ordinance #0606 passed which is the Well Head Protection Ordinance.
- I. An open well was noted on the property of the Amy Garrett House on Washington Street by an employee of the South Brunswick Department of Health, Mr. Bob Uhrik, which presents a safety issue. Subsequent investigation determined that the state requires wells to be professionally sealed if they are not in active use. There are two distinct reasons for sealing to occur -- to protect the safety of community members, and to prevent migration of contaminated water to other aquifers. In order to keep the well as an "historic structure", the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) would need to be petitioned with specific plans that cover both of the issues noted above. According to Mr. Papenberg, as long as the well is "secured", we have 3 years to make a final decision and act on this. It was suggested that in order to expedite the approval process, Mr. Papenberg believes having a local code official participate in the design process would be beneficial, since he/she is going to be the individual monitoring the project. A motion to attempt to maintain the well as an historic structure and to have our SB BOH liaison work with the state officials to design an appropriate covering was made by Margaret Querec, seconded by Beverly Poelstra and unanimously approved.
- J. Municipal Alliance meets 2nd Tuesday at the Otto Kaufman center. As per Ms. Stephanie Carey, Montgomery Township Health Officer, there are grant monies available to fund programs to prevent substance abuse. Will attempt to determine mechanism for appointing a Rocky Hill representative to this committee, so that our community can participate and be represented.
- K. 15th annual meeting of the National Association of Local Boards of Health will meet Sept 18-21 in Anchorage Alaska. We may send a representative to this meeting.

5.Old Business

Review of New Resident Information Packet being compiled and updated by Lizbeth Haines. It is now nearing completion. Will coordinate with Rocky Hill Community group to share responsibility for distribution .RH BOH will fund the actual printing costs. Insert will be included in the soon-to-be printed Community Phone Book.

6.New Business

A,Focus on reviewing the community info derived from the results of BRFSS survey as well as information packet for new residents.

B Continue to provide educational piece as attachment to the monthly newsletter of the Rocky Hill Community Group. Suggestions include handling of grease or seasonal topics such as carbon monoxide detectors.

C.Modify community survey mailed to residents several years ago and make plans to redistribute this in the future if funds are available. For now, will have new webmaster place survey on township website.

D. Work with town council on Nuisance ordinances – feeding of geese, noise from garbage trucks behind ARC building at early hours of the morning as well as from quarry trucks and/or blasting.

E. Next meeting date tentatively 2/13/07.

7.Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made at 453 pm by Margaret Querec and seconded by Beverly Poelstra.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Poelstra