

Rocky Hill Board of Health –Minutes of the Meeting on June 9, 2009

Location: Borough Hall

Members present: Lisbeth Haines, M.D. (presiding); Susan Fisher, V.M.D.; Mary Germain, Ed.D., APRN-BC, FNAP; Beverly Poelstra, M.D.; Margaret Querec, M.S.N, R.N.

Present: Stephen Papenberg, Health Officer; Linda Goldman, Borough Council Liaison

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m., prior notification having been given in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, Chapter 231

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 5/12/09 were reviewed. They were approved by vote on a motion made by Dr. Poelstra and seconded by Dr. Fisher.

Report of the Health Officer

Mr. Papenberg updated the status of Novel H1N1 Influenza for our area. There have been 11 confirmed cases in Somerset County and 230 statewide.

Dr. Haines distributed and discussed a handout on Novel H1N1 Influenza, reviewing the current status and new information regarding the outbreak, as well as a plan for Rocky Hill for responding to it. New issues included the anticipation of a double flu season this coming fall (seasonal flu and H1N1 flu) and a novel demographic for the H1N1 flu in which those under 40 years of age are most susceptible.

Reading of a Proclamation by Mayor Zimmerman

Mayor Zimmerman read a proclamation in appreciation of Mr. Papenberg's many years of service as Health Officer to the Board of Health and the Borough of Rocky Hill. This meeting was the last one to be held during his tenure, as a result of the switch in contractual health services from South Brunswick Township to Somerset County which takes place in September.

Old Business

Dr. Poelstra reported on the most recent meeting of the Municipal Alliance, informing us that their budget had been received. Several initiatives have been proposed including an outreach program to people who have lost jobs as a result of the economic downturn.

Dr. Haines reported that the new agreement with Somerset County has been signed by Rocky Hill. Approval by the state and signing by Somerset County are expected to be routine. Our liaison with Somerset County's Health Department will be Ben Strong. Dr. Haines again raised the question of responsibility for removal of dead deer from the Borough roads. Mr. Papenberg said he will take care making arrangements with the business which removes the deer, as there are two counties involved.

Dr. Poelstra provided an update on her exploration of options to fulfill our Child Health services requirement. She has spoken to Princeton Township's Health Officer, Dave Henry, who would be willing to see eligible Rocky Hill residents at the Princeton Medical Center under a fee for service agreement. Princeton currently rents space for this purpose at the Medical Center. Eligibility would be determined by Social Services at the PMC. Pediatric flu vaccinations would be available

for income eligible children not covered by health insurance. Linda Goldman agreed to draft an agreement.

New Business

Emergency coverage over the summer months was discussed. Both Dr. Haines and Dr. Poelstra will be away for extended portions of the summer. Mr. Papenberg said he would be available for any emergencies that arose. The remaining members of the Board said that they would also be available, if needed.

The subject of the Community Pet Survey was brought up. Mayor Zimmerman, who was present at the meeting, said he had not forgotten about it and intended to proceed with plans.

Dr. Haines provided an update on the results of dog and cat licensing for 2009. To date there have been 57 dogs and 42 cats licensed. At least two more are pending. This is significantly higher than last years totals which were 38 dogs and 24 cats, the increase credited in part to the scheduling of the Rabies Clinic on a Saturday, rather than a weekday.

The time of the next meeting was confirmed to be Tuesday September 8th at 4:30 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M. following a motion by Dr. Poelstra and seconded by Dr. Fisher

Submitted by Susan Fisher