



Princeton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2014



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The regular monthly meeting of the Princeton Board of Health as convened at 7:30 PM at Princeton Borough Hall-East Conference Room.

Dr. Rojer Called the meeting to order

Members Present: Dr. Charles Rojer, Steven Miller, PHD, MS, JoAnn Hill, RN, Dr. George DiFerdinando and Janet Heroux

Also Present: Jeffrey C. Grosser, Health Officer.

Alternates: Linda Steiner-Sichel, RN. MPH Alt. 1, and Lauren Babcock-Dunning Alt.2

Liaisons: Heather Howard, J.D. Township Council

Liaisons: Elizabeth Bidwell-Bates, Princeton Human Services Commission

Member absent: Dr. Laura Kahn and Rick Weiss,

Visitors: Mr. James Floyd, Mr. Paul Driscoll and Ms. Linda Auerbach

Dr. Rojer acknowledged two students from the university, one of which is a representative from the Princeton University Student Health Advisory Board.

Public Comment:

Ms. Auerbach, a resident who resides on Lytle Street, reported unsafe living conditions within a rental property. The family living in the rental property have a six month old baby are not allowed to be sleep in the property due to an unsatisfactory Fire/Housing Safety inspection.

Chip Sugg, Fire Inspector/Housing inspector and William Drake, Fire Official, visited the property in question and issued an unsafe building violation. Also on October 11, 2013 PSE&G issued a notice that the gas was shut off.

Mr. Grosser indicated that he would speak to the Human Services Director regarding relocation of the tenants due to the unsafe living conditions as well as working with the

Building inspector and the fire inspector that visited the property to get the situation rectified.

Ms. Auerbach asked what if any is the mandate of the Health Department in a situation as mentioned above. Mr. Grosser informed Ms. Auerbach that the Health Department will make every effort to ensure a property is sanitary. Mr. Grosser also explained that his office often works together with Housing Inspectors to ensure dwellings are habitable.

Mr. Driscoll asked why the landlords are allowed to let the properties in such deplorable conditions.

Mr. Grosser explained the rules and regulations that govern landlords, which included a brief overview of the NJ State Housing Code.

Mr. Driscoll mentioned that he attends many of the various Committees and Commission meetings to make sure that all the various departments keep in touch with each other.

Mr. Floyd mentioned that the housing in the neighborhood is overcrowded and the place to start is with the Zoning ordinance.

Mr. Driscoll suggested that the Board of Health members and or Health Officer should attend the Township Council meetings when the demolition of the hospital is being discussed.

Dr. DiFerdinando explained that the Liaison to the Board of Health is Heather Howard and would report to the Township Council for the Board of Health.

Mr. Grosser thanked the students from the University for attending the meeting prior to their departure.

Minutes – March 18, 2014

A motion to approve the March 18, 2014 minutes was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Ms. Heroux.

Monthly Reports

Dr. Rojer inquired about the inspectors report on bed bugs and if there was a protocol to handle furniture left curbside with potential infestations.

Mr. Grosser indicated the inspectors have a specific routine to handle bed bugs and oftentimes bring samples to the Rutgers Cooperative Extension to have them positively identified in cases of uncertainty. From there, it is ordered for the responsible party/property owner to hire a New Jersey Licensed Exterminator/Pesticide Applicator.

Dr. Rojer inquired about items left as garbage that were not collected by waste haulers.

Mr. Grosser indicated that the public works employees would haul the waste and or if it was waste that is not allowed to be picked up by PW, whomever the trash belongs to is responsible.

Dr. Rojer also inquired about the Animal Officers report he asked that the report be more detailed, more specifically with regards to bite notifications and rabies testing.

Dr. Rojer inquired about the results of lead testing children in close proximity to the Avalon Bay site because this is a health care issue of concern to the community.

Dr. DiFerdinando indicated this portion of the agenda is best discussed under Old Business.

Old Business:

Dr. Rojer thought that the children should have a test done to confirm their blood lead level before the demolition of the hospital.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that there are far too many variables at play which would not confirm nor deny exposure to possible construction demolition related exposure.

Ms. Howard mentioned that a license site remediation professional (LSRP) has been employed to work with staff.

The demolition will be regulated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Ms. Heroux inquired about the dust and how it will be controlled.

Ms. Howard indicated that a 7 or 8 ft. fence is proposed to be erected around the area and, demolition debris would be constantly wet down to control the dust, also any materials that would be going to the sewers would be carefully screened.

Mr. Miller thought it would be a good idea to get copies of all reports from Avalon Bay.

Ms. Howard indicated that the Health Officer should work closely with the engineering department while the project is ongoing.

Ms. Howard suggested that Mr. Robert Kiser, Township Engineer, be invited to the May Board of Health meeting so the members can get his review of the application.

New Business:

Dr. DiFerdinando gave a brief report of his attendance at a "Send Hunger Packing" meeting given by the Human Services Commission.

Mr. Grosser thanked the Board for making him welcome to his new office and to Princeton.

Report from Committees

Ms. Steiner-Sichel gave a brief report for Alcohol and Drug Committee commenting that heroin use and e-cigarette use is on the rise.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned.