

Princeton Board of Health
Monthly Meeting
March 15th, 2016
Monument Hall - East Meeting Room
One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540

Present:

Board Members

Lauren Babcock Dunning, MPH
George DiFerdinando, MD, Chair
Heather Howard, Council
Steven Miller, PhD
Mona Shah, PhD
Rick Weiss, MS

Absent:

JoAnn Hill, RN
Linda Schwimmer, Esq
Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH, Vice Chair

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser MHS, HO
Michael Soto, Board Secretary

Guests:

Elizabeth Bates, Human Services Liaison
Sam Bunting, Complete Streets Committee
Philip Curran, Princeton Packet
Jake Caddeau, Corner House Student Rep
Jackson Miller, Corner House Student Rep

I. Call to Order

At 7:30 PM, Mr. Grosser called the meeting to order by affirming: "This meeting of the Princeton Board of Health has been duly advertised and is being conducted in compliance with all provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act."

II. Public Comment and Guests

Sam Bunting, a member of the Complete Streets Committee, attended the Board of Health to explore possibilities to collaborate.

The Complete Streets Committee is being formed from what was previously called the Traffic and Transportation Committee. It is an advisory board with 6-7 members that meets to discuss town policy, for instance, last year it reviewed a question of where tour buses should park. The Committee also serves as a point of contact for the public. One of the motivations for the new organization structure is to provide better integration between various groups acting with an advisory capacity.

Mr. Bunting was specifically interested in the Board of Health's view on pedestrian safety. Mr. Grosser indicated that the primary concern was to make it as safe as possible, although he also suggested looking further into the relation

between health related outcomes and the number of walkways and different kinds of paths.

Dr. DiFerdinando suggested reviewing the Community Health Improvement Plan that the Mercer County Public Health Partnership, a coalition of all local communities, will present on Thursday, March 17th. One of the four major goals is a combination of ease of transportation and ability to physically walk and bike.

Mr. Bunting indicated that community is now engaging consultants to make recommendations to enable safe and comfortable bicycling and to integrate bike routes to the existing sidewalk network. At this stage they are seeking input from the community, and have received over 1,000 pieces of feedback.

He indicated that the Board of Health could be involved in various ways. At this stage, it would particularly be useful for it to provide input. Roads have historically been designed primarily with cars in mind, and to pedestrians as well but not really with cyclists in mind.

Cycling facilities are being considered, these may include bike lanes, repair centers, shared arrow markings, or shared use side-paths as were previously installed in the former township. Considering the issue around cyclists is currently underway, this is the most pressing issue to receive input at the current moment.

Mr. Bunting expects there to be a final report by early fall, and there will be many public meetings between now and then.

Another point of discussion has been around the consistency of sidewalk markings.

Dr. DiFerdinando highlighted the importance of developing a communication plan to educate all road users around appropriate behavior.

Mr. Weiss volunteered to meet with the Complete Streets Committee to discuss these matters further. The Board will funnel any additional ideas that arise through Mr. Weiss.

III. Minutes – February

Dr. Miller motioned to accept the minutes with corrections, seconded by Ms. Shah. All voted in favor.

IV. Health Officer's Monthly Reports

a. Greater Mercer Health Partnership

The announcement of team leads for the four priority events will be on March 17th.

b. Heroin and Opioid Awareness

An event held on March 2nd included the participation of Michael DeLeon from Steered Straight. One of the points that Mr. DeLeon raised was the importance of paying attention to the use of marijuana and alcohol by youth.

Mr. Grosser will be coordinating a presentation for healthcare workers over the summer regarding prescribing opioids for chronic pain and the current state of opiate/heroin use in the community.

c. Marijuana Use

Mr. Caddeau highlighted the need of having more education for the couple first years of high school. Dr. Miller also indicated that there is significant information in middle school and in the later years of high school but not as much in the first couple years of high school.

d. Prescription Drop Off

It was raised that there needs to be a broader awareness of the prescription drop off at the police station. Mr. Grosser indicated that he would work with Police and Corner House on putting together an updated press release and distributing it via the municipal website.

e. Accreditation

Accreditation is moving along well. There are two quality improvement teams, one on file reorganization and another on retail food license renewals. This will be entered into an inspection software which is being custom designed for Princeton. Inspectors will be able to work more efficiently, by the use of iPads, prepopulated fields, checklists and easy access to previous inspections.

The Health Department is approximately 39% complete with the accreditation measures.

f. Regional Points of Distribution (POD) Exercise

Mercer County, Somerset County and Hunterdon County are looking for actors/players for their POD Exercise at the West Trenton Fire House on Thursday March 24th to simulate 220 individuals going through a station an hour.

g. Water Testing

As a precaution, Princeton Regional School District will be testing their water for lead in light of the recently discovered elevated lead water levels in Newark.

h. Introduction of Updated Board of Health Code

Mr. Grosser presented the revised general Board of Health ordinance. Mr. Grosser noted that all Board of Health ordinances have been codified and are can now be found by their specific chapter. The existing general ordinances do not have many major changes but Mr. Grosser noted that new chapters on health and safety of cutting concrete/pavers as well as the model quarantine and isolation code. Dr. DiFerdinando motioned in favor of release and publication of the ordinance after comments and or edits were passed along to Mr. Grosser. Rick Weiss seconded this motion. The next meeting will include public comment of the ordinance as well as possibly adoption.

V. Boards and Commissions

a. Princeton Environmental Commission (PEC)

Dr. DiFerdinando commended the PEC on its diligence. They had an extensive conversation on “the old florist” building, which is currently under consideration to be converted to expensive condos with one parking space each. There is a list of proposed modifications under review.

b. Greater Public Health Public Partnership

Mr. Weiss attended a healthy living committee meeting and will be attending future meetings and reporting back. Mr. Grosser noted that the breakout strategic priority groups have begun meeting.

VI. Closed Session

Dr. DiFerdinando motioned to go into closed session to discuss issues of potential litigation. Mr. Weiss seconded the motion. The Board went into closed session at 8:30pm and came out at 8:50pm.

VII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Dr. DiFerdinando motioned to adjourn and Mr. Weiss seconded. All present voted in favor of this action and the meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Soto