

**Princeton Regional Health Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, October 18, 2011**

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

Members Present – Catherine Hegedus, JoAnn Hill, Laura Kahn, Charles Rojer, Leon Rosenson, and Bruce Topolosky.

Members absent: Robert Ciotta, George DiFerdinando, Lindsey Kayman and Sandra Zordan-Friedman and Bernard Miller

Liaisons: Jo Butler arrived at 7.35p.m.

Visitor: Elizabeth Bidwell-Bates

Public Comment: No public present.

Playing Field Pesticides Presentation by Victoria Hamilton & Matthew Wasserman

Also present Ted Ernst, John McKnight and Bill Seidell from the Athletic Fields.

Ms. Hamilton gave a presentation of the current herbicide application on Playing Fields in Princeton, NJ. That is a concern of the Environmental Commission.

Ms. Hamilton distributed a pamphlet and explained the various points of how the herbicides are applied to the various fields and the length of time it remains on the fields.

Mr. McKnight explained how the various treatments were done and how the area was protected from anyone using them.

Mr. Topolosky asked what would be the recommendation be.

Ms. Hamilton indicated that she did not have a recommendation and since this is a health issue and she wanted to bring the situation to the Health Commission attention, the Environmental Commission was interested on the impact on the ground water and would like to see these products band.

Mr. Topolosky asked what would be the recommendation for the schools play grounds.

Mr. McKnight indicated that only a licensed applicator can apply any treatment to the school both the playgrounds and the buildings.

Dr. Kahn asked why the herbicides were being used.

Someone indicated that this controls the Crabgrass and this can create compaction in the fields and be dangerous to children.

Ms. Hamilton indicated that there is a proposed new law to band certain herbicides and if the law is past there is an organization that will pay for all the training and certification.

Mr. Henry asked if the new law would cover Municipal and State Parks.

Someone indicated that the Municipal and State Parks.

Mr. Rosen asked if the County Health Department would provide information on this issue.

Mr. Henry indicated that the information would be a combination of the Department of Health and Department of Environmental Protection since DEP regulates the herbicides.

Mr. Topolosky wanted to make sure that the appearance of double standards since this is health of children safety and health.

After much discussion the members of the commission were in agreement that the main issue is the health and safety of the children that use the playgrounds.

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Correction:

Dr. Kahn enquired if the disease was transferable to human.

The above should read Dr. Kahn enquired if the disease was transferable to humans.

The word miss understanding, should be misunderstanding.

A motion to approve the September 20, 2011 minutes as corrected was made by Dr. Rojer and was seconded by Dr. Kahn.

Mr. Rosenson questioned if any new information on the Community Preparedness and what resources are in place, he thought that this was very important and should not be forgotten.

Mr. Topolosky indicated that the Chairpersons from the Senior Service and the Department of Human Service to attend a Health Commission meeting to discuss the concerns for the coming winter season and to prepare a plan of action for anyone in need of help.

Mr. Henry noted that there is a State program known as the 211 for residents to fill out a form and submit this information is listed by the County. Mr. Henry noted that he held conversations with the hospital and asked if he had an emergency and needed a stretcher or a wheelchair, he was told the cost to rent the equipment.

The members all agreed that the meeting with Chairpersons from the Department of Human Services and Senior Service would be the place to start.

Monthly Reports/ Health Officer's Report (September)

Mr. Henry attended the NJ Health Officer's Association and received an I Pad2 with Spanish translation software installed. This was as a result of having the Flu Clinic.

Mr. Henry reported that the Flu Clinic was attended by over 200 people on October 10th.

Update - Wildlife Management

Mr. Henry indicated that the case has been adjourned since in most of the surrounding municipalities there is a conflict, with the prosecutor who are in the sheared services. An official report has not been received from the DEP.

A letter was received from the Department of Environmental Protection prohibiting the use of tranquilizers the letter advised that it is not legal to administer drugs to wildlife without first obtaining a permit approved by the Fish and Game Council.

Mr. Topolosky made a recommendation for a meeting to be held with the Borough and Township Administrators, Assemblyman and or the State Senator to inform them of the restrictions Mr. Johnson has to work with, since the State would not issue a permit.

Mr. Henry enquired about the tranquilizers for the dogs and cats and he was told that this procedure would be acceptable.

Closed Session – Personnel Matters Regarding Commission Employees (Pending)

The above Closed Session was deferred.

Old Business

Septic Tank Management Ordinance/Meeting with County Planners

Mr. Henry indicated that he met with the Mercer County Health Officers Association and the County Planners and was informed that the Health Department has 6years to implement the Septic program. Mr. Henry will work with Bob Huff head of the sewer operation and Ms. Munzo, Chief Financial Officer in the Township.

RWJF Community Health Needs Assessment Grant – Community Advisory Board Request

Mr. Henry asked anyone interested in serving on the Community Advisory Board to give the names. It was suggested that some from the Susan Patterson be nominated.

Mr. Rojer asked for clarification on the partnership of the Greater Mercer Committee and what it's the functions.

Mr. Henry indicated that they are Health Officers and an Executive Director will be hired to complete the project.

New Business / Members Comments

2012 Budget – Referred to Commission Finance Committee

Reports from Committees

a. Budget and Finance

b. Personnel

No report on the above at this time

Planning

Mr. Topolosky will call a meeting of this committee before the next Health Commission meeting.

Reports from Other Boards and Commissions

Environmental Commission

Dr. Rojer indicated that students were given backpack information to parents from the schools, with recommendation about the herbicides.

Dr. Rojer attended a presentation by Dr. Tan at the hospital; he thought that the information was interesting and complex.

Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance

Ms. Hill informed the members that the PTA representatives from the Middle and High school will hold a morning coffee and evening desserts in their homes on alcohol and drug use prevention refusal skills and bullying by teens.

A book fair will be held at Barnes & Noble supporting Corner House Literacy Library Fund on Wednesday November 30, 2011. A coupon is attached to the flier that was distributed the coupon must be presented when a purchase is made

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m.