

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2008**

Dorothy V. Fish, RN. President, called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members in attendance were: David Klopp, DVM;; Linda Brock, RN; Patricia Reineke RN; Richard Morski, MD, Angela Musella, Health Officer NBRHC and Rudy Boonstra, Township Committee liaison

Excused: Theresa Bushman, RN; Steven Clarke, DC

Absent: Steven Sclafani

Staff in attendance: Denise Romano, Secretary

Reading of the Open Public Meetings Act statement

Denise Romano, Board of Health Secretary, read the Open Public Meetings Act statement: "This Regular Meeting of the Wyckoff Board of Health is now in session. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting appears on our Annual Schedule of meetings. A copy of said Annual Schedule has been posted on the Bulletin Board in Memorial Town Hall: a copy has been filed with the Municipal Clerk, *The Record*, *The Ridgewood News* and the *North Jersey Herald and News* – all newspapers having general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff. At least 48 hours prior to this meeting the Agenda thereof was similarly posted, filed and mailed to said newspapers.

Approval of 02/05/08 minutes – Dr Morski motioned, Dr. Klopp seconded all voted yes

Report of the President

The influenza vaccine developed for 2007-2008 it has been reported that may not have covered all strains of influenza found this year. So far no complaints of flu have been received by the Board of Health.

Ms. Fish referred to a news story pertaining to the contamination of soil at Russell Farm from agricultural residue and the Planning Board's approval to build 6 houses homes on the 5.66 acre site. Mr. Boonstra replied that prior to the issuance of any building permits all approvals must be received by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) (the regionalized regulatory authority) will impose clean-up requirements and ensure compliance. Mr. Boonstra said he would make sure the Planning Board resolution includes the NJDEP requirements and approvals.

Bergen Care Home Health (BCHH) presented a program to approximately 80 senior residents at the Larkin House concerning Fall Prevention. The program was very well received and the seniors invited BCHH to present more programs AT this time BCHH does not have anything planned. Mrs. Fish to follow up.

Ms. Fish was contacted by David Jacobs, Chiropractor, who is interested in attending the weekly blood pressure screening. The Board might consider him for the Health Fair and the Board wants to consult with Steven Clarke, DC, before contacting Mr. Jacobs.

Ambulance Corp

Ms. Fish was invited by Ms. Brock to attend an Ambulance Corp meeting to address their concerns about the conditions they encounter in residents homes. The meeting was well attended. Ms. Fish explained:

- Role of Board of Health and the Board Members
- Role of the Health Officer
- Contracted Services
- Need for Social Services
- Mechanism for referral of social/health problems to Board of Health.

Ms. Fish stressed to the Ambulance Corp members they should feel free to report what they see even if the report is anonymous. They should try to document the incident, who, what, where etc.

A question and answer period followed and both Ms. Fish and the Ambulance Corp felt the evening was successful and informative.

Eastern Christian Children's Retreat (ECCR) – Influenza Outbreak

An outbreak of influenza at the Eastern Christian Children's Retreat was reported to A. Musella. Angela Musella and Ms. Fish investigated the outbreak and Ms. Musella has been in contact with the NJ Department of Health.

The Director, Jane Press, was not aware of the scope of the problem. Adele Alfieri of Bergen Community Home Health reviewed the procedures with the Retreat personnel as to how to clean the facility. All programs have been cancelled.

A total of five residents of the Retreat were hospitalized and eleven residents were symptomatic. Ms. Brock informed the Board that residents of the Retreat are sent to St. Josephs Hospital for treatment and generally Valley Hospital does not accept the residents for treatment. All residents had been vaccinated for influenza. Twenty five staff members had been out ill and four were confirmed to have the flu. All ill staff was advised to stay home. Ms. Fish said volunteers also should be advised of the outbreak of influenza at the Retreat.

Ms. Fish inquired if the staff was required to be vaccinated? Ms. Musella was not sure but the staff was probably encouraged to be vaccinated.

Although some of the residents live in separate cottages, all residents spend time in the Main Building which spreads the infection. ECCR houses a total of 96 residents, 72 reside in the Main Building. The residents are not healthy to begin with and have special needs. There is no "sick room" at the retreat in order to isolate the ill residents. Ms. Fish asked Ms. Musella to define the regulations the Retreat is under.

Ms. Musella will follow up with the NJ Department of Health.

Board of Education- Recess

After last month's meeting when Mr. & Mrs. Costa visited the Board of Health and requested assistance with the Board of Education, the Board of Health unanimously agreed to send a "benign" letter to the Board of Education endorsing healthy lifestyle for the students in the Wyckoff schools. The Board of Education meeting will be held on March 10th and Ms. Fish is planning on attending along with another BOH member to be decided.

Ms. Fish in collaboration with Mr. Clarke and Dr. Reineke formulated the following letter:

'Wyckoff residents visited the Wyckoff Board of Health expressing concerns about the current structure of recess and block scheduling in the Township's elementary and middle schools.

Specific concerns include:

- Time allotted for eating is short, resulting in a stressful lunch period.
- Mid-day fitness does not meet the needs of children who prefer to relax during recess.
- 90 minute learning blocks in the middle school reduce the number of breaks that students have during the day.

The Wyckoff Board of Health is charged with promoting and encouraging the protection of health and wellness in the community through education and pro-active measures of prevention.

We particularly would like to further and promote healthy lifestyles for the youth of today through education of several basic tenets of good health...proper nutrition, proper rest, social interaction, proper exercise, and the establishment of healthy living styles. Healthy youth will be more productive members of society as well as reduce the long-range chances of chronic conditions such as heart disease, obesity, etc.

Although we understand the educational demands of our society as they relate to children, we strongly support having the appropriate amount of time to eat their food, sufficient time to digest it and ample opportunity to have an enjoyable rest period.

We applaud any educational institution that works toward improving the health and wellness of its students, and we offer our support in those endeavors.'

The letter will be faxed and mailed to all Board of Education members on March 7, 2008.

Report of the Health Officer

Ms. Musella reported that a grant was written to NJDHSS to obtain funding for Pandemic Influenza Phase III. Ms. Musella works with 12 other Health Officers in developing the plan. The Bergen County Health Officer does not work with the other Health Officers.

The dates for the 2008 Spring Food Handler's Course dates have been set. On April 7th, between 4:00 – 7:00 pm. Wyckoff is hosting the class to be held at Town Hall in the Court Room. Other classes will be held in Hillsdale. Registration forms have been mailed to all Wyckoff food handlers.

The recall of beef products distributed to New Jersey schools was investigated. There were no schools in Wyckoff that received the beef.

Adjournment: 9:05 p.m.