

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
April 3, 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, Steven Clarke, DC, Angela Musella, Health Officer NBRHC and Rudy Boonstra, Township Committee liaison

Excused: Steven Sclafani, Patricia Reineke RN, PHD

Staff in attendance: Denise Romano, Secretary

Reading of the Open Public Meetings Act statement

Denise Romano, Board of Health Secretary, read the Open Work Meetings Act statement: "This Regular Work Session 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 03/06/08 minutes – Dr Morski motioned, Dr. Klopp seconded all voted yes

Report of the President

Ms. Fish extended her thanks to the Police Department for the designated parking for the Board of Health.

Storm 3/8/08

After the wind and rain storm that occurred on Saturday March 8th there were extensive power outages in various sections of Wyckoff. It wasn't until Monday March 10th, that Ms. Fish was made aware of the power outages by a resident on Sunset Blvd. There are some elderly residents residing on Sunset Blvd many had been without heat and hot food for 3 days. One resident is confined to a hospital bed and without electricity could not be moved and his wife did not know how to operate the bed manually. Several residents went to the Library to stay warm. Linda Brock provided hot coffee while Ms. Fish and others canvassed the Knolls section of Wyckoff to determine who was need and provided hot food.

If the Board of Health (BOH) had been notified at once, services such as Meals-On-Wheels and the Red Cross could have been utilized to help the residents. Ms. Fish did note the Police Department had over 63 calls and the Fire Department over 36 calls on March 8th. The Board suggested asking Sergeant Dave Murphy, OEM Coordinator, to attend a Board of Health meeting. It was also suggested Sergeant Murphy instruct the dispatchers to contact Ms. Musella or Ms. Fish in times of emergency. Ms. Fish will follow up with Dave Murphy.

New Business

Michele Ogden, CHEER and Maureen McCormack, CHORE attended the meeting to inform the Board of their services for seniors. Jeff Steinginga, Deacon at Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church attended the meeting at Linda Brock's invitation.

CHORE – Volunteer Handyman Service, Ms. McCormack

CHORE is a volunteer organization comprised of senior men and women that perform basic repairs for seniors in order to keep them safe and secure. The volunteers will replace electric switches, install smoke detectors, replace and repair screens, etc. They also install grab bars and banisters. The volunteers do not respond to emergency situations. Presently there are 32 volunteers and 2 Chore vans available. The volunteers go out between 9am-2pm daily. There are four volunteers per van.

Ms. McCormack screens all of the calls from perspective clients. The clients must be 60 years old or over or disabled of any age. The clients must be homeowners. The clients pay for any supplies needed for the repair.

Ms. McCormack also discussed a program called "Bergen Leads" which is a ten month course, with a monthly meeting, designed to dissect issues, debate view points and develop approaches to Bergen County community problems.

Most of the funding for CHORE is through donations and fund raising.

CHEER – Michele Ogden, Visiting Homemaker, Home Health Aide Service

Cheer is a program that assists seniors that have no other care givers. The program is funded by a grant from the Division of Senior Services and is free to seniors that qualify for the program. The Township does not have to give any donation or monies to CHEER for their services. The program has 12 paid employees and volunteers. The employees and volunteers all undergo background checks.

CHEER visits the seniors weekly and will shop and do light house cleaning for them i.e., take out the garbage, change the sheets, do a load of wash. The CHEER worker does not take the resident from their home and does no personal maintenance. The same CHEER worker returns to the senior so a relationship develops between them. CHEER volunteer staff goes shopping for the resident but do not clean at all. CHEER clients pay for their groceries, personal items and medications. CHEER clients can not offer gifts or money to the employees or volunteers.

To qualify, the senior must be 60 year old or older and minimally disabled. The senior must be alone and have no other help. Most clients are referred to CHEER through hospitals or concerned neighbors.

Since CHEER is a free service to all of the municipalities in Bergen County there is a wait list of between one month to a year and a resident can not get this service on demand. The wait depends on the availability of the staff and volunteers. The more residents in need will cause Ms. Ogden to hire more staff to meet the needs of the community. Currently 64 Bergen County residents are being serviced with 26% over 90 years old.

Both Ms. Ogden and Ms. McCormick stressed that the needs of Wyckoff are not known unless referrals are made to their services.

Board of Education- Recess

A letter written by the BOH endorsing healthy eating and life style for students was faxed to the Wyckoff Board of Education (BOE) on March 7th. Ms. Fish and Mr. Clarke attended the Board of Education meeting.

Ms. Fish described a very hostile and vocal meeting of disgruntled Wyckoff residents because delays in construction to all of the Wyckoff schools. Toward the end of the meeting Ms. Fish asked the Board of Education to accept the BOH letter concerning midday recess into record. The BOE did and Ms. Fish and Mr. Clarke spoke for approx. 12 minutes. Mrs. Costa was at the BOE meeting and did not speak to the issue.

By the end of the week, a response in the form of a letter was received by the BOH. Janet Razze, Wyckoff Superintendent of Schools, stated the BOE never received the faxed letter, the BOH did not know all of the facts, and it was very interesting the BOH came to the meeting just before the vote to approve the budget. She also stated she was never informed of the meningitis occurrences in 2007.

Ms. Fish stated Superintendent Razze, Wyckoff Schools and Superintendent Paul Saxton, Ramapo/Indian Hills (FLOW) had been notified but never really responded.

Mr. Ignazio (Nat) Fazio 201-891-1256 and Dianne Morelli, 201-891-4841 concerned Wyckoff parents were present to further discuss mid day recess with the BOH. Ms. Morelli thanked Ms. Fish and the BOH for their concern and endorsement of healthy life style for children. She had read the article in the Suburban News. Mr. Fish stated that there seemed to be many different views of the situation between the parents and the BOE. The BOE stated they are modifying mid day recess and there will be changes for 2008-2009 school year.

Ms. Morelli stated her 1st grader did not eat all year. The children eat in the gym (20 minutes to eat) and by the time the children set up their lunch and then have to clean up the time is over. During special lunches, i.e. pizza, the children have to stand in line, the volunteer parent gives them lunch, sits down and clean up again time is up and most of the food ends up in the trash. The children are famished by the time school ends and many parents bring snacks with them in the car at pick up. Ms. Morelli suggested adding 5 minutes on to lunch. There is also no time for hand washing before lunch or after mid day recess.

Dr. Morski concurred with Ms. Morelli. Dr Morski stated his son, Eisenhower Middle School, said all they do is line up and wait. The students wait for lunch and wait at mid day recess.

The BOH suggested Ms. Morelli and Mr. Fazio to bring their concerns to a BOE meeting. Mr. Clarke told them that the BOH can not compel the BOE to do anything. He said the parents must state their case to the BOE. Ms. Morelli stated the BOH response was helpful

After the residents left, Ms. Fish informed the Board that she tried to contact Ms. Razze after the suicide of the Eisenhower Middle School student to offer the BOH assistance and to inform her of resources (West Bergen Mental Health). Ms. Fish did not receive a return call.

Bergen Care Home Health

To date the contract with Bergen Care Home Health (BCHH) has not been signed. Ms. Fish was looking for evidence BCHH would pursue health education programs. A successful program was held at the Larkin House. Ms. Fish spoke with Rose Milstein, Wyckoff Seniors, and established four dates for future programs.

Ms. Erna McWilkens, volunteer at the Blood Pressure Screenings, called to inform the BOH that most of what was advertised at the screenings does not exist. The BOH went on to discuss the following options:

- 1) Hire a public health nurse for Wyckoff instead of contracting for this service with BDHH
- 2) Stay with BDHH and insist on upgrading the present screening
- 3) Drop program

BCHH also does all the home assessments and the Health Fair and Influenza Vaccination program.

At this time the contract will be signed and the BOH can examine the alternatives for next year.

Health Fair

BCHH found an audiologist to attend the Health Fair. Mr. Steven Menello, DMD, Wyckoff (201) 891-0852 called to offer his services to conduct oral cancer screening. David Jacobs, DC, (551) 804-3235 offered his services for Chiropractic evaluation.

A date for the Health Fair will be established at the May meeting.

New Jersey Office of Local Board of Health

Ms. Fish, Ms. Musella and Ms. Romano attended a meeting with Mr. Stein from the NJ Office of Local Boards of Health. The Board of Health presidents from Westwood and Midland Park also attended the meeting that took place in Wyckoff Town Hall. Mr. Stein conducted an assessment of the Boards of Health. The purpose of the assessment was to help the local BOH.

Report of the Health Officer

Eastern Christian Children's Retreat (ECCR)

A communicable disease investigation was made into the outbreak of influenza at ECCR. Eight residents met the definition of influenza. Thought it might be two viruses. All of the residents are out of the hospital. There were no new cases after March 7th.

Wyckoff Reformed Church Nursery School

Ms. Brunner, Health Inspector, found that the 3 year old class was using a communal bucket to wash their hands. The teacher said it was difficult to take the children to the bathroom. Ms. Brunner made the teacher remove the bucket. Upon re-inspection the bucket was still in the classroom but empty. She will re-inspect to make sure the bucket is removed.

Ms. Brunner, Fred Depken, Wyckoff Fire Marshall met with the Director of the Nursery School to secure the second floor window height. Clips will be installed on the windows at the proper height that children can not fall out and firefighters can enter the building.

Due to a rabbit biting a child at Abma's Farm, all rabbits were quarantined.

Starbucks was conditional because they did not have a certified food handler on premises.

Brick House – Cigar Bar

An application for the cigar bar must be submitted to the Board of Health. Ms. Musella explained that the local Board of Health can deny or approve the cigar bar. Certain criteria must be met as put forth in the New Jersey Smoke Free Act of 2005. The license is issued yearly. Ms. Musella did meet with the owners and explained the criteria that are involved. Once the application is submitted, the Board of Health will consider it.

Adjournment: 9:30 pm