

Borough of River Edge

705 KINDERKAMACK ROAD, RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661 • 201-599-6300

FAX: 201-599-0997



Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Health

March 25, 2024

President Patricia Cordts called the meeting to order at 7:35pm via Zoom

- **Roll Call**

Present: Patricia Cordts, Jane Daly, Tina Mereos, Mary Clare Smith, Adrienne Capasso, Health Department Secretary, James Fedorko, Health Officer, Arlene Faustini, Public Health Nurse, & Kayla Williams, Health Inspector

Absent: Stefanie Butler, Elizabeth Oudens, Councilman Barry Benson

- **Approval of Vouchers**

- 1. Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission***

Sanitary Inspector (REHS) January - February 2024.....\$3,788.00

Vacancy Inspections January - February 2024.....\$240.00

State Housing Cyclical Inspections 2023.....\$2,064.00

- 2. St. Peter's School Nurse***

Professional Nursing Services January & February 2024.....\$2,885.63

- 3. Staples***

Office Supplies.....\$552.30

- 4. Amazon***

Office Supplies.....\$44.29

- 5. New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services***

Dog license report for January & February 2024.....\$302.40

A motion was made by Jane Daly to approve payment of the vouchers as submitted and was seconded by Patricia Cordts. Roll call – all in favor. None opposed.

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- **Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of January 29, 2024**

A motion was made by Patricia Cordts to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 29, 2024 and was seconded by Tina Mereos. Roll call – all in favor. None opposed.

- **Correspondence**

See Health Inspector's Reports

- **Complaints**

See Health Inspector's Reports

- **Registrar's Reports**

REPORT OF FEES COLLECTED DURING THE MONTH OF January 2024

Vital Statistics	This Month	Year To Date
Births	0	0
Deaths	8	8
Marriages	2	2
Certificates of Domestic Partnership	0	0

	This Month	Year To Date
Business Licenses	\$5,390.00	\$5,390.00
Marriage Licenses	\$56.00	\$56.00
Certificates of Domestic Partnership	\$0.00	\$0.00
Marriage Transcripts	\$30.00	\$30.00
Burial Permits	\$0.00	\$0.00
Death Transcripts	\$0.00	\$0.00
Birth Transcripts	\$0.00	\$0.00
Swimming Pool Permits & Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00

Total MRNA **\$5,476.00** **\$5,476.00**

	This Month	Year To Date
Cat Licenses	\$144.00	\$144.00
Cat License Late Fines	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dog Licenses	\$1,590.00	\$1,590.00
Dog License Late Fines	\$0.00	\$0.00

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Total Animal Trust Fund

\$1,734.00

\$1,734.00

REPORT OF FEES COLLECTED DURING THE MONTH OF February 2024

Vital Statistics	This Month	Year To Date
Births	0	0
Deaths	5	13
Marriages	2	4
Certificates of Domestic Partnership	0	0

	This Month	Year To Date
Business Licenses	\$1,800.00	\$7,190.00
Marriage Licenses	\$56.00	\$112.00
Certificates of Domestic Partnership	\$0.00	\$0.00
Marriage Transcripts	\$20.00	\$170.00
Burial Permits	\$0.00	\$0.00
Death Transcripts	\$100.00	\$100.00
Birth Transcripts	\$0.00	\$0.00
Swimming Pool Permits & Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00

Total MRNA

\$1,976.00

\$7,572.00

	This Month	Year To Date
Cat Licenses	\$24.00	\$168.00
Cat License Late Fines	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dog Licenses	\$1,096.00	\$2,686.00
Dog License Late Fines	\$0.00	\$0.00

Total Animal Trust Fund

\$1,120.00

\$2,854.00

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- *Public Health Nurse's Report – Arlene Faustini, RN, BSN*

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES QUARTERLY REPORT

JANUARY-MARCH 2024

Maternal-Child Health:

Children requiring immunizations and health services are being referred to the FQHCC (Federally Qualified Healthcare Center).

Preschool/School Health:

School nurses and preschool administrators are aware of the FQHCC services. Preschools aware of flu immunization requirements. Immunization audits in progress.

Adult Health:

Adult blood pressure screening and health assessments will be provided as needed with a home visit. One home visit provided during this quarter. Information and resource materials regarding home healthcare services provided to several residents.

At Risk List:

This confidential file continues to be up-dated. This also includes individuals who are in the Lock Box Program, and residents with at home oxygen therapy. The REPD is essential and extremely helpful with this program. Discussed need to update lock boxes that are “rusty” and unable to be opened.

Communicable Disease:

CDRSS (Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System)
Investigated diseases in this quarter have been Hepatitis B, and Perinatal Hepatitis B, Varicella and Anaplasmosis

Programs:

Stigma Free upcoming events include the 4th Annual Concert in the park. Bergen County Stigma Free Symposium will be held in May. Mental Health Awareness Day in the River Edge Library will be held in May as well. At our most recent meeting (March 18th), two new members to our committee have voiced concerns of unaddressed bullying at the schools.

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- **Registered Environmental Health Specialist Report —
Kayla Williams, REHS**

January- March 2024

Retail Food Establishment Inspections: 19

Initial Inspection- Satisfactory: 16

7- Eleven (Main Street)

CVS Pharmacy

Dollar Deal

Dunkin Donuts

FedEx

Habit Burger

Huang's Kitchen

Joseph Pizzeria

McDonald's

River Edge BP Gas Station

River Edge Liquors & Fine Wines

Ready to Golf

Jersey Mike's

MS Sushi

Nick's Hot Bagels NJ

Dollar Deal

Conditional Satisfactory: 1

China Garden*

Reinspection- Satisfactory:

Jersey Mikes

Kung Fu Tea

Vacancy Apartment inspections: 9

Complaints: 8

88 Rutgers Pl- Complaint received regarding mold in communal laundry room. Spoke with property management who will address the issue. No further complaints received.

1200 Main St- Complaint received regarding noise coming from too many tenants in 1 bedroom apartment upstairs. Referred complainant to the NJ DCA Bureau of Housing Inspections. A follow up late received revealed the tenants relocated. No further complaints received.

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River Terrace Gardens- Complaint received regarding insufficient electricity in apartment building. Complainant referred to NJ DCA Bureau of Housing Inspections. No further complaints received.

446 The Fenway – Received a complaint regarding neighbor improperly composting. To observe composting pile and request compliance. To follow up with complained address with information and education on composting.

88 Rutgers Place- Received complaint that upstairs tenant is smoking in the building after smoking policy was enforced in December. Property inspection conducted with property maintenance with no evidence of smoking or odor of smoke at time of inspection. A blast email was sent out to all tenants reminding them of the no smoking policy. Will continue to follow up as necessary. No further complaints received.

920 Kinderkamack Road- Received insufficient heat complaint. Health Officer followed up with landlord who had a plumber come out to address boiler issues. No further complaints received from complainant.

25 Kinderkamack Road- Received complaint regarding insufficient heat in apartment. Called complainant for further information but was uncooperative and did not want to properly communicate concerns. Tenant denied on site inspection. No further complaints received.

204 Bogert Road- Complaint received by Health Officer regarding insufficient heat in apartment. An inspection of all 4 units in building yielding the result of insufficient heat within the building in all units due to the removal of the temperature sensor. The superintendent then followed up letting us know they would be replacing the thermometer and placing it in the complainant apartment. Followed up with complainant who has had no issues since initial complaint. Complaint closed.

Animal Bite Incidences: 2

881 Bogert Road – Dog bite incident reported by Police Department due to a unlicensed loose dog. The owner was contacted about the 10-day quarantine requirement. After the 10 days, the dog was released and licensed with the Health Department.

498 Kinderkamack Road- Dog bite incident reported by the Police department due to an employee bit by unlicensed, unprovoked dog. As per Owner, Dog was placed in 10-day confinement at a Shelter in New York. Dog returned and released within time frame allocated. All dogs associated with owner to be licensed within the Health Department.

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Pre-operational/Operational inspections:

Wang's Chinese Cuisine

Dunkin'

Summons Issued: N/A

Special Event(s):

Ramadan Crescent Lighting- Approved

*Temporary Closed due to change in ownership

- **Health Officer's Report – Jim Fedorko, H.O.
(Mid Bergen Regional Health Commission)
February & March 2024**

March 25, 2024

Causes of Death in River Edge:

Heart disease and cancer are the leading causes of death in River Edge. There were no drug overdoses and no suicides within the municipality in 2023.

One COVID related death in 2023:

Age 80, Moderna on 2/22/2021, 3/22/2021, 11/02/2021, 4/4/2022, and 9/12/2022. Died on 11/28/2023.

Average life expectancy in River Edge = 83.0

Average life expectancy in New Jersey (2019) = 80.5

Average life expectancy in the U.S.A. = 77.8

Communicable Diseases:

The following confirmed and probable communicable diseases were identified in River Edge:

2023	2022	2021	2020
COVID = 169	COVID = 940	COVID = 977	COVID = 700
Influenza = 46	Influenza = 83	Influenza = 0	Influenza = 32
Food Borne Illnesses = 7	Food Borne Illnesses = 4	FBI = 6	FBI = 1
Lyme disease = 7	Lyme disease = 0	Lyme disease = 1	Lyme disease = 1
	Hepatitis B = 1	Hepatitis B = 1	Hepatitis B = 1
	Monkey Pox = 2		Hepatitis C = 2

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The leading food borne illness in Mid Bergen's jurisdiction which is approximately 230,000 people: Campylobacteriosis, Salmonellosis, and Shig-toxin/*E. coli*

Explanation for the increase as per the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/foodnet/reports/preliminary-data.html>

Culture-Independent Diagnostic Testing (CIDTs) rapidly identify treatable infections and detect infections that would have otherwise been missed. This enhanced detection likely contributed to the increased incidence of *Cyclospora*, STEC, *Vibrio*, and *Yersinia* infections. Though the use of CIDTs helps detect more infections, it can also complicate the interpretation of surveillance data. Distinguishing changes in detection from actual changes in the incidence of infections can be difficult. This is further complicated by the fact that the use of CIDTs has varied by time, pathogen, and clinical diagnostic laboratory.

- ***Approval of reports of the regular meeting of March 25, 2024***

A motion was made by Patricia Cordts to approve the reports as submitted and was seconded by Jane Daly. Roll call – all in favor, no opposed.

- **Old Business**

1. The Land Use Board has been requiring new food establishments to submit an application for a “food handler’s license.” This has led to miscommunication with the new owners of these establishments for a few reasons. First, this leads them to believe that the Board of Health issues food handler’s certifications. Also, an establishment is given the incorrect information in the resolution of the application as it refers to a food handler’s license when, in fact, the establishment may need a food manager’s certificate. We should communicate to the Land Use Board the confusion this is causing.

Jim Fedorko appeared at the Mayor and Council meeting on March 11, 2024 to present the Board’s position on deleting the term “food handler’s license.” The Mayor advised Jim to write a letter to the Land Use Board explaining the reasons for the change.

2. Proposal to have quarterly meetings for the Board of Health. The Board of Health currently has five meetings

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per year. Would the members prefer quarterly meetings or continue the format we have currently of five meetings per year as scheduled?

Lisette Aportela advised the Board to write a memo to her with the change of schedule so that we can start quarterly meetings in 2025.

- **New Business**

1. Re-organization of the Board of Health for the year 2024
 - a. Nominations for President
 - b. Nominations for Vice President

The Board unanimously voted Patricia Cordts for President and Mary Clare Smith for Vice President.

2. Email of March 13th from the Mayor requesting the Board of Health to review and comment on the pet store ordinance suggested by the Humane Society of the United States.

The Board agreed to have the attorney for Mid-Bergen write a statement on behalf of the Board which supports the cause of the humane society.

- **Adjournment**

Since there was no further business, Patricia Cordts asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. A motion was made by Jane Daly to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mary Clare Smith. Roll call – all in favor, no opposed.

Our next meeting will be Monday, June 26, 2024.