

CHATHAM BOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH
June 27, 2019 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Lisa DeRosa called this Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 212. middle level, Chatham Borough Hall. Chrnm. DeRosa read aloud the following statement:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq. adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by including same in the Annual Notice, copies of which were posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board, on the main floor of the Borough Clerk.

Names	Present	Absent
Lisa DeRosa, Chrnm.	X	
Rita Marts, R.N.		X
Mary Ann McCabe	X	
Kay Kaiser, R.N.	X	
Micki Chaput, R.N.	X	
Lisabeth Bringgaard, R.N.	X	
Shelliam Lee		X
Council Member Robert Weber	X	
Bridget Colendenski, R.N., Public Health Nurse		X
Andrew Zoltan – 1 st Alternate		X
Megan Avallone	X	
Beau Preston, R.E.H.S.	X	
Liz Holler, Minutes Secretary	X	

Also present:

Council Member Carolyn Dempsey
Jeff Kaplan, resident and father of Gabby Kaplan
Dan Silver, reporter for Tap into Chatham

Public Comment

Raising Chickens in Chatham Borough

Chrnm. DeRosa introduced Jeff Kaplan. Mr. Kaplan’s young daughter, Gabby, has expressed an interest in raising chickens in Chatham Borough. Currently, this activity is not allowed in the Borough.

Using a laptop computer, Mr. Kaplan gave his daughter’s power-point presentation explaining the pluses of raising chickens in Chatham Borough. Among the points given in this presentation was that other municipalities allow chickens to be raised, if the necessary permits were in place. Summing up, Mr. Kaplan believed that chickens, if raised correctly, and kept within the caregivers’ property, will have many benefits.

Chrnm. DeRosa brought up the concern of salmonella occurring with chickens.

Council Member Wagner asked Mr. Kaplan to send him a copy of the slides of Gabby's power-point presentation.

Chrmn. DeRosa asked Ms. Avallone to share her views on this matter.

Ms. Avallone stated that from a Health Department viewpoint, she felt neutral about chicken-raising. She realized that raising kittens and puppies, as well as chickens, can all produce risks. Ms. Avallone discussed the Borough of Madison's ordinance on chicken raising. Madison's ordinance allows chickens as long as the coops are within two feet of the property line.

Chrmn. DeRosa reviewed Mr. Preston's CDC info on live poultry and salmonella outbreaks. There is a definite concern of people not following the correct way to care for live poultry, and keeping conditions clean. Chrmn. DeRosa read over what Maplewood requires of chicken owners.

Chrmn. DeRosa noted that Mr. Preston, Chatham Borough's R.E.H.S., had submitted some questions for the Board's to consider: if live poultry was allowed in Chatham Borough, would training and inspections be required of the chicken owners? What would be the costs for training and inspections? Chrmn. DeRosa reviewed what zoning issues may come into play with live poultry.

Council Member Weber recommended that an educational component be included in an ordinance allowing for chicken-raising. There are online courses that can be taken, with a quiz at the end. A certificate is awarded if the course is successfully taken. Council Member Weber pointed out that raising chickens initially sounds like a great idea, but in reality, after it's actually undertaken, this project can be larger than what was envisioned.

Chrmn. DeRosa pointed out that Maplewood residents looking to raise chickens, must attend classes sponsored by their health department, clarifying what the ordinance requires for chicken raising and the proper methodology of maintaining household chickens. Chrmn. DeRosa reviewed Maplewood's required measurements for chicken-raising structures/fencing on properties.

Mrs. Chaput noted that the homes in her particular neighborhood are very close together. She would not like to have chickens in her neighbor's backyard. Mrs. Chaput reported that her brother, who lives out of state, is raising chickens and discovered it was much more work than he had anticipated. Her brother has told her that the chickens attract all kinds of wildlife. Her brother had to also deal with a salmonella outbreak with his chickens.

Ms. Bringgaard agreed with Mrs. Chaput's point about chickens attracting wildlife. Also, it's hard work taking care of chickens. Chickens' living spaces need to be cleaned up every single day. Mrs. Bringgaard questioned how could the Borough make sure that the chicken facilities are correctly constructed and maintained.

Chrmn. DeRosa asked Board members if they would be agreeable to a pilot try of issuing five permits for a trial time period. This trial period could be ended if things did not work out.

Maplewood has done a pilot program for chicken raising. A handful of residents have responded. There are certain streets in Maplewood that aren't allowed to raise chickens.

Council Member Weber said he was not against allowing chickens to be raised in the Borough, but he is not totally convinced about the idea.

Chrmn. DeRosa asked if the City of Summit had dealt with chicken-raising.

Ms. Avallone reported that Summit did not feel that their properties were not conducive to chicken-raising. The Board of Health in Summit also had concerns about chicken-related diseases affecting residents, especially the elderly and very young.

Mr. Kaplan brought up the possibility of the Borough having a chicken co-op coop that residents could share, like what is done with honey bees.

Ms. Avallone pointed out that the Borough would be held liable, if a chicken-related infection was spread. For instance, one of the chicken raisers may neglect to thoroughly wash his/her hands after working in the coop and may transmit a disease.

Council Member Dempsey stated that she would be in favor of a pilot program for chicken raising in the Borough. She agreed with Council Member Weber's suggestion that the ordinance require people to attend a class on correct chicken-raising methods before they begin this activity.

Council Member Weber asked Mr. Kaplan if he had talked with his neighbors about this chicken-raising project.

Mr. Kaplan felt that his neighbors would have no problems with this project; however, if it was a Borough requirement, he will touch base with them.

Chrmn. DeRosa asked if one of the local schools could manage a chicken coop.

Council Member Weber wasn't sure a school would want to take on such a project.

Mrs. Chaput noted that there are currently chickens being raised on the corner of Tredwell Ave. and Woodland. A local restaurant owner keeps a chicken coop on his property. His coop is kept quite a distance from his neighbor.

Board members suggested to Mr. Kaplan that Gabby visit some of the chicken coop locations in other towns.

Chrmn. DeRosa wanted to hear the opinions of those members absent from tonight's discussion. She suggested the topic be continued to the next Board meeting, when a fuller Board will be present.

Council Member Dempsey and Mr. Kaplan thanked the Board for their time and departed.

Nursing Report – May 2019

Chrmn. DeRosa noted that under “Communicable Diseases” a 22-year-old male in Chatham Borough had developed Amoebiasis after a month-long trip to Puerto Rico. No treatment was prescribed by the physician.

On other matters, Ms. Avallone reported that the Fishawack Festival went smoothly.

R.E.H.S. Report

Ms. Avallone noted that Gregorio’s inspection in May did not do too well. A re-inspection was done and everything is satisfactory.

Chrmn. DeRosa noted the complaint that had been made concerning a large pit of water resulting from a house demolition on 50 Inwood Road. There had been a concern that this standing water could breed mosquitos. The Morris County Mosquito Commission will treat this area until construction of the new home begins.

Chrmn. DeRosa would like mosquito information put on the Chatham Borough Twitter. This time of year, residents should be reminded of situations that may promote mosquito breeding.

Ms. Avallone noted that an educational campaign had been started a few weeks ago to alert residents on the dangers of mosquito breeding. Suggestions had been made about what the most effective repellents people could use on themselves.

Chrmn. DeRosa noted that the Morris County Mosquito Commission web site is very user friendly. She would like to have a link of this website inserted in the Borough website.

Financial Reports

Chrmn. DeRosa commented on the Daily Record’s charge for the notification made to change the Board of Health meeting date this month.

Animal Control

Board members discussed the number of summonses recently issued for unlicensed animals. Chrmn. DeRosa asked Ms. Avallone if the Board should be doing something more to remind residents to license their pets and keep the licenses up to date.

Ms. Avallone stated that at the Borough Rabies Clinic a strong reminder will be given to pet owners to have their animals licensed by the Borough.

Chrmn. DeRosa suggested the Board ask that a strong reminder about animal licensing be included in Mayor Harris’s annual letter being sent to residents in August. Residents should also be reminded to notify the Borough when their licensed pets pass away. It has to be noted in the licensing files.

Pest Control Report

The Board accepted the report. There were no questions or comments.

Health Officer Monthly Update

Ms. Avallone reported that in August a full time Health Educator will be hired.

Ms. Avallone reported that the NJ Local Boards of Health Association now have a new member orientation manual. This manual gives an over-all information on what is expected of a Health Officer. Also, the manual discusses the different types of Boards of Health. There is a section in the manual regarding accreditation for health departments.

Religious Exemption Script

Ms. Avallone noted that Assemblywoman Munoz understands the importance of vaccinations. However, Ms. Avallone was not sure of Assemblyman Bramnick's position on Assembly Bill A3818. She distributed a suggested script that Board members could use to call their State Assembly representatives to vote for this bill to eliminate nonmedical exemptions from immunization requirements for students.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

Chrmn. DeRosa made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2019 Board of Health meeting. Council Member Weber seconded the motion. The minutes of the May 9, 2019 BOH meeting were approved.

At 8:25 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

No Board of Health meetings will be held in July or August.

The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Room 212, middle level, Chatham Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler
Recording Secretary