

**Princeton Board of Health**  
**Minutes of March 18, 2014 Meeting**

The regular monthly meeting of the Princeton Board of Health was convened at 7:33 p.m.at Princeton Borough Hall - East Conference Room.

Dr. Rojer, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order.

**Members Present:** Charles Rojer, MD, Dr. Laura Kahn, MD, MPH, Janet Heroux, MHS, MBA, Steven Miller, PhD, MS, and Rick Weiss, MS

**Liaisons:** Elizabeth Bidwell-Bates, Princeton Human Services Commission

**Also Present:** Robert Hary, MA, MBA, Interim Health Officer, Kathy Monzo, Assistant Administrator and Jo Butler, Township Council Member.

**Members Absent:** George DiFerdinando, MD, MPH, JoAnn Hill, RN,

**Alternates Absent:** MS, Linda Steiner-Sichel, RN, MPH Alt. 1, and Lauren Babcock-Dunning, MPH, Alt.2

**Liaisons Absent:** Heather Howard, J.D., Township Council Liaison

**Visitors:**

Nikita Patel, Senior at Rutgers University, Public Health Major, an intern in the Princeton Health Department.

Katrina Iledan, 1<sup>st</sup> year Rutgers University Student.

**Opening Comments**

Dr. Rojer gave a brief review of the search procedure for a new Health Officer and introduced Mr. Grosser as the New Health Officer. He invited him to give a brief introduction. Mr. Grosser provided the Board with a summary of his past experiences and education.

**Public Comment:**

Dr. Sam Hamod, indicated that he spoke to Mr. Kiser the Township Engineer about various environmental concerns that the residents have about the Avalon Bay project and the demolition of the old hospital building. Dr. Hamod suggested that members of the Health Board should attend the meetings held by Avalon Bay. He claimed that the demolition expert hired by Avalon Bay has no experience in hospital demolition and therefore is not qualified to properly consult in demolishing the hospital in a safe manner.

Dr. Hamod also mentioned that Avalon Bay proposed hours of work to be 6 days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Dr. Hamod asked the Health Department to question all aspects of the proposed demolition since a number of Avalon Bay representatives are not forthcoming with information.

Mr. Miller mentioned that, at a previous meeting, the objectors requested a Phase 2 investigation be done by an Environmental Consulting firm.

Mr. James Floyd, a resident, then spoke and indicated that the Board of Health is governed by State Law and, as such, has jurisdiction on all matters of public health as directed by the charter.

A letter from Paul Driscoll, a resident of 141 Harris Road, was read by Linda Auerbach.

Linda Auerbach, a resident, mentioned that an 8 ft. fence will be erected around the demolition site and the area will be wetted down to prevent the dust going into the air. Ms. Auerbach is concerned that children in the area will be exposed to the dust from the demolition process.

Dr. Kahn suggested that parents should have the base line of lead in children tested before the demolition begins so they are aware of the children's health status. Dr. Kahn suggested that residents purchase N95 masks to wear as a preventative measure so as to not inhale the dust.

Mr. Miller indicated that one of the things that should be looked into is mercury since there is a high use of this in hospitals.

After more discussion, it was agreed to have more oversight on the various issues discussed.

### **Minutes – February 18, 2014**

A motion to approve the February 18, 2014 minutes was made by Dr. Kahn and seconded by Mr. Weiss. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Monthly Reports**

- Mr. Hary gave a report of the month's activities, including reports from the Animal Control Officer and the Registered Environmental Health Specialists.
- Mr. Hary attended the Affordable Care event at the library as did Board members Rojer, DiFerdinando, and Miller.

Dr. Kahn inquired about the results on the animals that were tested for rabies and requested that the results be added to future reports.

- Mr. Hary introduced Ms. Nikita Patel, an intern from Rutgers University assigned to the Health Department.

- Mr. Hary reported the problem of garbage in the Birch Avenue area. Reminders were sent out to the residents on the scheduled collection dates and there appears to be an improvement in the situation.
- Mr. Hary mentioned 32 retail food inspections were conducted, including the indoor Farmers Market and all re-inspections.
- Mr. Hary reported on the meningitis outbreak at Princeton University and the reported fatality of a Drexel University student who came in contact with Princeton University students at a social event at Drexel. The University has done all follow up for their students and Mr. Hary did follow-ups for non-University students. He indicated that the Health Department will continue to monitor the situation with the CDC and the NJDOH.

### **New Business**

Dr. Kahn indicated that the high school has a required Community Service program for 10<sup>th</sup> graders, and it would be an opportunity to expose the interested students to the field of Public Health.

Mr. Grosser mentioned a program conducted by his current place of employment where the REHS would speak at the schools to get children interested.

### **Report from Committees**

Dr. Rojer gave a brief report from the Environmental Commission.

The Alcohol and Drug Committee had no report at this time.

Mr. Hary thanked the Board for their help during his short time in office, and indicated that he would be available to Mr. Grosser should he have any questions during the transition.

Dr. Rojer thanked Mr. Hary on behalf of the Board.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned after a motion by Dr. Kahn, second by Dr. Miller, and a unanimous voice vote.