

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission  
Meeting (Green Brook Township Municipal Building)  
December 5, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President, Mr. Greg Riley, with the following statement: "This meeting being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the Law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice being forwarded to the Courier News, Home News, Echoes Sentinel, Star Ledger, and posted in the Municipal Buildings of the towns of the Commission on March 28, 2022."

2. Roll Call

- Mr. Greg Riley, Warren - Present
- Ms. Christine Madrid, Bridgewater - Present
- Mr. Atul Shah, Green Brook - Present
- Ms. Angela Valerio, Warren - Present
- Mr. Mal Plager, Warren - Present
- Mr. Wells Winegar, Bridgewater - Absent
- Mr. Bob Longo, Green Brook – Absent
- Ms. Francesca Escaleira, Watchung – Absent
- Mr. Bruce Ruck, Watchung - Absent

3. Meeting open to the public – public recognized – public portion of meeting closed

There were no members of the public present.

4. Acceptance of meeting minutes – October 17, 2022

G. Riley requested minor revisions to be made to the October 17<sup>th</sup> minutes in the Polio and Liability Case Discussion sections.

C. Madrid moved to adopt the October 17, 2022, minutes, second by A. Shah, with changes.  
All in favor

5. Treasurer's Reports – October 2022, November 2022

October 2022

There were no comments or inquiries made toward the Treasurer's Reports for October 2022.

M. Plager moved to adopt the Treasurer's reports for October 2022, second by C. Madrid.  
All in favor

November 2022

There were no comments or inquiries made toward the Treasurer's Reports for November 2022.

A. Shah moved to adopt the Treasurer's reports for November 2022, second by A. Valerio. All in favor

6. Unfinished Business:

- COVID-19 Update

COVID is still among us and the Commission will be holding its last COVID and Influenza vaccine clinic for 2022 on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-6:30 pm.

- Monkeypox, Ebola, and other Infectious Diseases Update

Monkeypox cases have dwindled down and the Commission is not handling any cases at this time.

After 21 days of regular monitoring, the Commission residents who traveled to an area with cases of Ebola did not contract the virus.

There is a recent surge of flu and RSV in our community, especially within our schools and daycares.

- Monmouth Regional Health Commission – ARPA Funding

Paul Roman, President of the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association and past President of Monmouth County Regional Health Commission, fought to receive funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. He was denied because his health commission is not part of a municipality so is not recognized as a government entity. G. Riley believes we should support their efforts as there is no rational justification to exclude a regional health commission and approved the proposed letter of support.

M. Plager made a motion to approve the letter of support to the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission, second by A. Shah. All in favor

- Rabies Clinics

The Commission recently held three Rabies clinics: November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Green Brook Municipal Building from 9-10 am with a total of 30 dogs and 3 cats vaccinated, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Finderne Firehouse in Bridgewater from 9-10:30 am with a total of 58 dogs and 19 cats vaccinated, and December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Watchung Firehouse from 9-10 am with a total of 35 dogs and 8 cats vaccinated.

- Somerville Proposal

K. Sumner offered a proposal to Somerville after they approached him several months ago about seeking health services from the Commission, but they have not communicated a final decision to us. W. Winegar offered to contact Kevin Sluka, the Somerville Administrator, and further information will be provided at our next meeting.

7. New Business:

A. 2023 Budget

The 2023 budget was approved unanimously by the Commission. The finance committee met and considered issues such as increases to health benefits costs, 2022 spending, grant funded salaries, and other factors to prepare a budget to recommend to the Commission that provides a 2% salary increase for employees.

A. Shah moved to adopt the budget for 2023, second by C. Madrid. All in favor

B. K. Sumner appointed to Rutgers School of Public Health Educational Advisory Board

Due to K. Sumner's extensive expertise and the need for a large and diverse group of advisors, he was chosen to be among those who review the master's degree curricula.

8. Addenda to Agenda

The State may no longer be offering grants as of 2023, but the Commission currently has enough State-granted money saved to carry over into 2024. There is approximately \$366,000 saved that will go towards construction of the Commission office in Green Brook, additional positions such as Assistant Health Officer or epidemiologist, as well as our own computer software.

The audit for 2021 has begun and will be completed by Suplee, Clooney & Company. In mid-January, the accounting firm will send someone to conduct a training session for K. Sumner and D. Swiderski on QuickBooks.

In November, K. Sumner held individual meetings with each employee of the Commission and they unanimously reported that they are happy with their positions.

A. Valerio added that there has currently been a slight increase in COVID cases among teachers in our community and many cases of flu throughout our schools.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, M. Plager made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm, seconded by C. Madrid. Vote: All in favor.

Respectfully,

Diana Swiderski, Administrative Assistant