

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Hopewell Township Municipal Building - Main Conference Room

To be Read: This is an audio recording of the March 11, 2020 meeting of the Hopewell Township Board of Health Advisory Committee

The March 11, 2020 meeting of the Hopewell Township Advisory Committee was called to order by Advisory Board of Health Secretary, Kathleen Prassas at 6:00 p.m.

Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News, Trenton Times and the Trentonian and Hopewell Express (the official newspapers) on January 3, 2020, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

Secretary called the roll:

Present: Suzanne Borgos, Michael Coco, Matthew Kolodziej, Michael Rothwell,
Carolyn Wooley
Interim-Health Officer, Stephannie Carey

Absent: Lisa Dobruskin, Heather Kintzel

Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag

Due to recent events regarding the Coronavirus, review and approval of minutes from the January 15, 2020 meeting will be tabled, and placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

The first order of business was the introduction of our Interim Health Officer, Ms. Stephanie Carey. Ms. Carey is also the Health Officer in Montgomery Township. Board members introduced themselves and presented a brief bio.

Ms. Carey reported on the sporadic cases of the Coronavirus in New Jersey, noting the virus is potentially 5 to 10 times worse than the flu, and advised of the importance of self monitoring, contact tracing and social distancing. Lengthy discussion was held regarding modifying workplaces and school patterns. Ms. Carey stressed the importance of community control issues encouraging citizens to prepare for the worst, and hope for the best, in an effort to slow the pandemic and not over-stress the health care system. Board members discussed State education requirements, noting on-line remote learning would be implemented and arrangements will be made to coordinate distribution sites for bag lunch pickup or delivery for students/families enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program. The probability of canceling events and sports was addressed and businesses will be required to modify and create different ways to conduct their business.

Ms. Blake led a discussion on understanding the importance of social distancing and understanding the role of proper hygiene, referring to the CDC protocols for guidance and accurate information.

Ms. Borgos reported on the current status of Capital Health, advising to date, patients admitted to ER must be symptomatic for Corvid-19 in order to get a test.

Mr. Coco suggested a video presented by the WHO(World Health Organization) be viewed by kids instructing on proper handwashing techniques. Child care issues were of a topic of concern.

Mr. Rothwell discussed the impact on the food supply business, food handlers and local businesses.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the role of police, first responders and the importance of mutual aid from surrounding municipalities if they are stretched as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

FISH the county meal program, is also providing meals to Hopewell Valley residents.

The next Advisory BOH meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2020.

There being no further business, Mike Rothwell moved to adjourn, Carolyn Wooley seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Prassas