TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK
BOARD OF HEALTH
July 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Jim Schatzle called the Colts Neck Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the following statement: "As Chairman and Presiding Officer of this meeting of the Colts Neck Board of Health, I hereby declare that the notice requirements of the New Jersey public meetings law have been satisfied by noticing the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times on January 23, 2024 stating that a regular meeting of the Colts Neck Township Board of Health would be held on July 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Colts Neck Library, 2 Veterans Way, Colts Neck. A copy is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk. I further order that this public announcement be placed in the minutes of this meeting."

ROLL CALL INDICATED:

PRESENT:	Jim Schatzle, Linda Stagliano, Dr. Boak, Pam Sokoler, Liz Iacono, Jeff Reisinger, Annemarie Delle Donne, Dr. Singh
ABSENT:	None
ALSO PRESENT:	Tom Frank, Tara Torchia Buss and Christine Eschert

Meeting Minutes – Jim Schatzle made a motion to approve the April 2, 2024 meeting minutes and this motion was approved by Dr. Boak, seconded by Jeff Reisinger and unanimously carried.

Discussion: Animal Control Program: *Associated Humane Society (AHS)*

- Ronnie Ehrenspeck, General Manager, attended the meeting to tell us a little bit about what the Associated Humane Society does for the township regarding animal control. Colts Neck has utilized their services for over 17 years. We renew our contract with them on an annual basis and we receive monthly service reports from them.

- The AHS receives calls ranging from wildlife to stray animals, which may be either alive, deceased, injured or trapped upon arrival of the Humane Law Enforcement Officer.

- Dogs and cats are kept for observation and released after 10 days for incidents involving animal bites.

- The AHS assists with specimen testing at the State lab (i.e. Rabies testing).

- Dead animals (except deer) are picked up and removed from our streets by the Associated Humane Society.

Old Business – There was no old business to discuss.

New Business – Health Officer's Report:

- **New Date for Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic:** The clinic that was scheduled in January was cancelled due to inclement weather and will be rescheduled for **Saturday, November 9, 2024**. The new location is at **Bucks Mill Park** and the clinic will be advertised in The Journal, with posters around town and on the township website.

- **4th of July Fireworks:** The fourth of July fireworks celebration will take place on July 3rd at Bucks Mill Recreation Area. Tom Frank, Health Officer, will be on site to conduct temporary food inspections since there will be vendors offering food to the general public.

- **Source Brewery:** It appears Source Brewery in Colts Neck will be eligible to have temporary food vendors at their location, after Governor Murphy signed some legislative changes relating to brewery operators in the State.

- **Colts Towne Plaza:** Another restaurant will apparently be taking over the "French Market" that was located at the Colts Towne Plaza complex on Route 34 in Colts Neck. It is called "The Grind" and they will be offering coffee, a variety of specialty drinks, as well as breakfast and lunch style food items. However, septic system upgrades may need to be accomplished and food sanitation /safety requirements still need to be fulfilled.

- **Bird Flu:** The Avian (Bird) Flu virus, H5N1 (Influenza A), has been affecting chickens, wild birds and cows, as well as some other animals. The list continues to grow, potentially affecting cats now.

  The virus is currently causing outbreaks in poultry and U.S. dairy cows. So far, there have been 3 documented human H5N1 cases, all linked to working closely with infected diary cattle and/or poultry.

  The CDC, USDA and the FDA are all working together to gain a better understanding of the virus, with a focus on further control techniques to prevent the spread of the virus on the animal health side.

  The CDC stated that the current human health risk assessment for the general public remains low. It is typically spread by saliva, mucus and feces of animals.

  Of concern is if the virus mutates/shifts it may potentially allow more efficient transmission to humans, along with the possibility of human to human transmission.

  There are some antivirals (like Tamiflu) available that can be administered if exposed to the virus, or to a sick individual.

  Health officials are keeping a close eye on any new developments as they occur.

- **35th Street Consulting:** All Monmouth County Health Departments are working with 35th Street Consultants to update our Public Health Community Health Assessment (CHA), which will be followed by developing a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the County. This update is conducted in the County every 5 years.

Last week on June 27th, we had our first ***Community Forum*** at Centra State Hospital. We had over **75 stockholders in attendance** (Reps from all Monmouth County Health Depts., area hospitals, VNA, State DOH and even some participants from the general public) to help discuss what our new health priorities should be going forward.

Some of the potential priorities discussed were:

- Mental Health Needs
- Housing Needs
- Transportation Needs
- Substance Abuse
- Cultural Humility

The results of these discussions will be forthcoming and will be made available to the public. The next meeting will be scheduled in September to develop the improvement plan and to set measurable goals and objectives.

- **Septic Inspections:** The Health Officer is busy with septic system alterations from house sales or just residents needing to upgrade their 25–30-year-old system. This process entails a site visit with the design engineer, plan review and finally inspections of each system.

Liaison Report - Ms. Torchia Buss, Liaison, reported that the Colts Neck Business Association will be sponsoring fireworks on Wednesday, July 3rd at Bucks Mill Park. She mentioned that the affordable housing projects are moving along. The Colts Neck Manor property received its TWA (Treatment Works Approval) permit from the NJDEP, and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 31st. Discussions are taking place regarding an increase in the Open Space tax in order to acquire more property. The Colts Neck Sounds of Summer Concert Series is underway on Thursday evenings, pondside at Town Hall. Lastly, National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at Bucks Mill Park in Colts Neck.

Public Comment – None

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Schatzle at 8:00 p.m. and unanimously carried. The next scheduled meeting is August 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Eschert