

January 18, 2022

This is the reorganization meeting and the regular meeting of the Board of Health for the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on January 18, 2022.

Mayor Holeman called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country.
Please remain standing for a moment of silence for our military.

This meeting has been advertised in one newspaper, The Daily Record, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

ATTENDANCE: Vera Cheatham, Stuart Hale, Ismael Lorenzo, David Holeman.

ABSENT: James Glass, Kendyll Hedgepath and Ondria Garcia Montes.

*** Also present at this meeting were Peter Tabbot, Jaimes and Brittay from Rockaway Township Board of Health.

Motion to accept the minutes of January 19, 2021 as received by Vera Cheatham, seconded by Ismael Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

*** At this time Peter was speaking to the Board of Health. In the report handed out there were 2 complaint/investigations both related to rodent activity.

Jaime said that the one complaint was not in Victory Gardens it was actually at the Krauzers in Randolph. We met with the Randolph inspector. We went into the basement and they will be exterminating. There was also some activity in the Borough garage. You hired Viking Pest and they are in here. They have set traps.

Peter said therapie clinic went well. We had vaccinated 34 dogs and 7 cats. That was held on November 24, 2021. The flu clinic we had 32 people come.

It has been very active with COVID cases not just here but all over. It is more active than anyone anticipated. Last year at the high point of COVID we had about 6900 cases. Last week we had a case load of over 39,000. The trend is the same all over. The majority of the cases are pretty mild. Hospitalizations are significant but are under much better control than they were a year ago. The deaths are down also. The vaccinations are working especially in helping that the cases are mild.

As of 1/18/22 we have had in Victory Gardens 393 cases. The negative test results are at 302.

Brittany is our vulnerable population outreach coordinantor. She has been with us for about 6 months. We received another grant so that she will be staying with us for at least another year. She has Grace Jansen working with her. Brittany is working closely with the schools. I asked Brittany to put a packet together that we handed out tonight.

Brittany said that page 2 shows you the timeline to get your shots. Page 3 is vaccines for children. It just explains that the vax will help the kids not get so sick. Page 4 talks about the importance of getting the vaccine even if you already tested positive for covid. Your booster is important. Even though you have had covid in the past, you can still get it again. This is why it is so important to get vaccinated. The next page discusses the vaccines for those with weakened immune systems. For those people it would be a 3rd dose instead of the booster. This group of people need a higher dose vaccine and that is why the 3rd shot. It is a full dose whereas the booster is a half dose.

The next page discusses pregnancy and fertility. The Mayor said then it is just a myth that says a person will be infertile if they take the vaccine. Correct. The effects on pregnant women are false also. There is data to back all the myths up.

The next page tells you all the vaccines that we have in Rockaway Township that are available to the Victory Gardens population. These include: Hep A, Hep B, Shingles, MMR, Meningitis, Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis and HPV. If you want information on any of these you can call us at 973-983-2848.

The Clerk asked if these shots will be done here in Victory Gardens or do we have to come to Rockaway Township? You would have to come to us. This is a Federal grant we received. The last page tells you about T Mobile and how they want to give 10 million students free internet access for 5 years.

The moratorium on utility shutoffs has been extended until March 15, 2022. This is for gas. Also there is another place where residents can get help with paying their electric and heating bills. This is at 95 Bassett Highway in Dover and the phone numebr is 973-366-4770.

There is also a FEMA grant available for those families that have to pay funeral expenses for someone that died of COVID. FEMAS hot line for funeral help is 1-844-684-6333.

Peter said that we are trying to get some things for Victory Gardens such as an over the door temperature check. We are also getting hand sanitizers.

Ismael asked about the COVID test kits. We don't have any of those from the grant. The federal government is allowing people to go on line and get 4 tests per household free of charge. The website is: covidtests.gov that will lead you to put your information in and they will be sent to you.

The Mayor asked if someone calls down here to Borough Hall and they said that they have covid and ask what should they do what do we tell them? Peter said that anyone that feels sick should see their doctor and get tested and a site that is available. If the symptoms are mild like that of a cold, first you isolate yourself from others. stay hydrated, and follow that protocol. You also have to keep your strength up and you have to eat. Is there a vitamin that will help? Not really. They haven't given guidelines for vitamin intake.

The Clerk asked if she heard correctly that there is a 3rd dose? Yes, it is for those with compromised immune systems. The third shot for them would be a full dose. The booster is a half dose. Both Pfizer and Moderna have a 3rd shot.

Ismael asked about the Pfizer pill. That has to be thru a doctors office and we are't sure if it has been approved yet.

The Clerk said she has COVID. I was scheduled for the booster after I got covid. I asked my doctor about the booster and she said I didn't have to get it because I now have the antibodies in my system. I asked her if it would hurt me if I got it and she said no, but that I didn't have to get it. I did get it. Why would she say that? Peter said he thinks for some time there have been mixed messages. This is probably more so with doctors. It is said that people who get covid have the antibodies but I would still tell people that they should get the booster. Everything effects different people in different ways.

The Clerk said that she knows many people and have heard from others that they have taken the home tests and they test negative but then they go for a test and test positive. are the home tests worth the money you are paying for them if they aren't accurate? Peter said anyway a person can test is better than not testing at all. I recommend that everyone tests. The rapid test or the home test is better than nothing at all.

The Mayor asked once you test positive for COVID how long does it take for you not to test positive? It varies for everyone. It could be 3 weeks or it could be several months. Maybe longer.

The Mayor said we need a motion for a Board Secretary. Ismael made a motion to appoint Vera Cheatham as the Secretary. Seconded by Stuart Hale and approved on roll call:

Vera Cheatham	Yes
Stuart Hale	Yes
Ismael Lorenzo	Yes
David Holeman	Yes

Motion to open the meeting to the public by Vera Cheatham, seconded by Ismael Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

No public was present.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Vera Cheatham. seconded by Stuart Hale and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Vera Cheatham, seconded by Ismael Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:

Vera Cheatham, Secretary

Minutes typed by Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk