

New Castle City Board of Health Meeting
April 25, 2023 -- 6 p.m.
1 Municipal Drive, New Castle, DE

Members Present: Tish Gallagher, Chair
Jackie Metz, Vice Chair
Eleanor Green
Dr. David Bechtel

Absent: Dr. Joanne Viola

Ms. Gallagher convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Roll call followed and a quorum to conduct business was declared.

Meeting Minutes

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the January 31, 2023, Board of Health meeting as presented was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Ms. Gallagher welcomed Dr. Bechtel as a new member of the Board of Health.

Old Business:

Proposal for Collaboration – Ms. Gallagher stated that she will keep this item on the Agenda. Chief Majewski will keep her updated on the status of the proposal, which is a collaboration of City agencies.

Playground Committee – Dr. Bechtel and Ms. Metz will reach out to two members of the Playground Task Force, Carl Benson and Nermin Zubaca, to invite a representative of the Task Force to attend the July 25th Board meeting.

Update on Articles

- Rabies – Dr. Bechtel reported that his article is almost done. He will forward the document to Ms. Gallagher to submit to The Weekly.
- Tick-borne Diseases – Ms. Gallagher is working on an article on tick-borne diseases. She will have Dr. Viola to review it before submitting it to The Weekly.
- Fishing in the river – Mses. Green and Metz researched fishing in the river. They noted that most of the information was general in nature, but the members felt it was worthwhile to have an article in The Weekly.

Ms. Gallagher noted that articles will be published in The Weekly as space is available.

New Business:

Train/freight passage through New Castle – Ms. Gallagher noted that many people in town are concerned about the trains coming through New Castle, particularly in light of the train accidents that have occurred across the country. Ms. Gallagher discussed this with Captain Moore, and he explained that the Fire Department is not notified of the contents of train cars coming through New Castle. Ms. Gallagher suggested contacting Norfolk Southern to see if the contents of the train cars could be disseminated to the City.

Evacuation routes – Ms. Metz opined that the Fire Department is working on evacuation routes and expressed her concern with all the new apartment complexes and developments being approved to be built on the outskirts of the City and the ability of the residents of the City center to evacuate. The Board discussed the apartments that were recently approved to be built. Ms. Metz opined that because the City has some very specific challenges in terms of evacuation that a study needs to be done on the evacuation routes. Ms. Gallagher noted that the State is in the process of working on evacuation routes and new information should be available soon.

Closure of Medical Office at New Castle Senior Center – Ms. Gallagher reported that the medical office at the Senior Center has been closed. The difficulty of establishing a viable medical office in the City was discussed. It was noted that the closest medical facility is now on Rt. 273. Dr. Bechtel stated that it is difficult and expensive to get doctors, nurse practitioners and physician’s assistants. The options for medical care were discussed. Dr. Bechtel will look at the medical office facility at the Senior Center.

Mosquito control measures – Ms. Gallagher noted that she added this to the Agenda as a discussion item to see if there were any negative implications for the residents relative to the mosquito deterrent being sprayed in the community. Ms. Gallagher will reach out to the State to find out more about what is being sprayed.

General Discussion

House Act – Ms. Green questioned if the new developments in the City might be linked to the House Act for middle- and possibly low-income housing. The need for rental units was discussed.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Health meeting will be Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Gallagher called for a Motion to adjourn.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The Motion was carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen R. Weirich
City Stenographer