



**City of Norwalk
Board of Health
Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2021 8:00 AM
Via Teleconference**

To watch the video recording of the meeting, click here: www.norwalkct.org/meetings.

Call to order at 8:05 AM

Present:

Board of Health: Kenneth Lalime, RPH, Theresa Quell, PhD, RN, Janet Karpiak, MD, Norman Weinberger, MD, Vincent Amoruccio; **Staff:** Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health, Megan Faugno, Project Coordinator, Theresa Argondezzi, Health Educator; **Public:** Diane Lauricella, Diane Cece

1) Approval of the December 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Quell moved and Dr. Weinberger seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes passed unanimously.

2) Public Participation

- Ms. Diane Lauricella said that she is looking forward to hearing the discussion around 10 Norden Place. She also spoke about the obligation of the Board of Health to talk about times when health issues will negatively impact the people. She also shared that the messaging around masks is still inadequate. She recommended making a special request to have a medical communications consultant to help. She said that the health department isn't properly and creatively using messaging. She suggested simple messaging about not using masks with exhalation valves. She also said that the meeting minutes are inadequately conveying her message and her concerns. She spoke about modernizing and reforming the Board of Health. She suggested having a separate chairperson for the Board of Health and better minutes.
- Ms. Diane Cece reflected on the role of the Board of Health and having it be examined moving forward. She shared that she sees it expanding more to look at the impacts of health in the City of Norwalk and the impacts on residents. She gave examples of noise, traffic, and air quality and their impacts on health.

3) Director's Report

- Ms. D'Amore gave an update on the new part-time Medical Technician and the posting of two grant funded contact tracer positions.

4) 10 Norden Place Application

Mr. Amoruccio presented a review of safety and environmental concerns for the Special Permit Zoning application at 10 Norden Place. He presented an overview of the application, the truck traffic and diesel fuel emissions and other criteria pollutants, the environmental impact statement, research on the health impacts of diesel exhaust, and his request of the Board of Health to submit written testimony to the Zoning Commission asking them to deny the application for the Norden Place Project and also to present a statement of opposition at the upcoming public hearing.

Dr. Quell spoke about air pollution as well as the three schools in the area and how the truck routes pass them. She said that many kids start walking early in the morning and also walk in the afternoon. She also said that there are two lane roads, and some don't have sidewalks or bike lanes. She said she doesn't think this is the proper location. Dr. Weinberger spoke about children and their developing lungs. He spoke about research on areas in close proximity to highways and the much higher rates of respiratory problems within children in comparisons to other areas in the country. He said he is in full opposition to this. Mr. Lalime asked if there are other applications similar to the one presented today, and Mr. Amoruccio spoke about the role of the department and the Board in regards to similar applications moving forward. Ms. D'Amore spoke about the inclusion of health impact statements in the POCD and looking at incorporating them in the future. Dr. Weinberger said that certainly could be a role of the health department.

Mr. Amoruccio made a motion to vote on submitting written testimony to the Zoning Commission on behalf of the Board of Health and to present at the public hearing. Dr. Weinberger seconded a motion to approve. Both items passed unanimously. Mr. Lalime said that the Board of Health will be looking at what kind of authority can be vested in the future for similar applications.

5) COVID-19 Updates

- Ms. D'Amore gave an update on cases of COVID in Norwalk.
- Ms. D'Amore gave an update on the COVID-19 vaccination and the eligibility phases.
- Ms. D'Amore gave an overview of the health department's plan for COVID vaccine clinics.

6) Reaccreditation Update

Ms. Faugno gave an update on reaccreditation and the extension granted by PHAB. Ms. Faugno will give an update at future meetings.

Adjourn at 8:47 AM