

The meeting was called to order at 7:45PM

President Cabuhat stated that notice of this meeting held via Zoom was posted on the Bergenfield Website, sent by e-mail to the Record and Cablevision in compliance with the "The Open Public Meetings Act". It was placed on one Bulletin board in the Municipal Building and placed on file in the Borough Clerk's office.

ROLL CALL

Dr. Cheriyan
Mrs. Pfannen
Mr. Cabuhat
Ms. Aquino
Mrs. Plan

Also Present, AnneMarie Delacruz , Susan Barker, Jim Fedorko, Ruby Parra, Administrator Corey Gallo, representatives from Bergen County Mr. Tom Longo and Mr. Bob Bergamini and residents. councilman Hernando Rivera and Liz Cruz were absent.

OPEN HEARINGS

Mrs. Delacruz mentioned that the representatives from the County were present to discuss the TNR Program, if any resident or Board Members would like to present their questions to the representatives.

President Cabuhat asked Mr. Longo for details on the TNR program, since the two new Board Members wanted clarification on the program. Mr. Longo gave a general overview on the TNR (Trap Neuter Release) program. He mentioned this program is a way that feral cat populations are controlled and reduced in towns. The cats will be trapped, male cats are neutered, and females are spayed, and returned to the colony or caretaker (if any). Mr. Longo responded to a question from a resident he confirmed that feral cats have no owners or not licensed. The resident Ms. Brooks mentioned she is a Nurse who works in the Bronx, and she was concerned because she sees children encountering animals that are wild feeding cats, and they get scratched and bitten. She asked why the cats cannot be neutered and placed in proper adoption care. Mr. Bergamini informed the residents that many of these cats are feral, and they are not approachable. Mr. Longo Bergenfield does not participate in a TNR program. However, the resident said that her kids are runners in the High School, and they run in other towns. Mr. Longo explained that cats are feral and not adoptable. He said that assessments are done when they come into the shelter to see if they are potentially adoptable but unfortunately, they are not adoptable and instead of putting the cat down the cat is released back to the feral cat colony.

Ms. Aquino asked where the cats were being released, and Mr. Longo stated that the cats are being released back into the colony from which they were trapped.

Sue Barker stated that Bergenfield does not have an Ordinance for Trap Neuter Release. President Cabuhat mentioned that the program was ceased in Bergenfield. Mrs. Pfannen mentioned that Bergenfield is not aware of any cat colonies. Mrs. Pfannen said that she did not know much about TNR and to educate herself on it she and Mr. Fedorko met with the Director of CLAWS Animal Rescue since they have a colony in Closter. She mentioned that it was a large colony on the property of a Contractor of a commercial outfit which allows the agency to have the colony - there were about 20 sizeable boxes. She reiterated that Bergenfield does not have a cat colony. President Cabuhat mentioned the exchange of emails in 2023 that Bergenfield does not have a colony and since Mr. Fedorko was on the email, he got in touch with a town that was doing TNR and the TNR Agenda was on hold. However, the two new Board members were unaware of the TNR discussion and hence President Cabuhat requested this meeting so the new members could be updated on this information.

Mrs. Pfannen asked Mr. Bergamini if at the end of the year a report is given to the Towns of the number of cats that are trapped and what the disposition was. Mr. Bergamini mentioned that sometimes the reports are done monthly and yearly. Sue Barker mentioned that detailed reports are being received monthly from the County and Mrs. Delacruz sends them out to the Board. She stated it details everything that Animal Control has done within the month. Dr. Cheriyan inquired if Sue Barker sees anything from Bergenfield. She stated that Bergenfield does not have feral cat colonies but there were instances on Bradley Avenue, Jagoe and in another area where neighbors complained about the number of cats and kittens and Bergenfield worked with Bergen County to try to humanely trap and remove the cats, but some residents wanted the cats back and they were adopted and licensed. Sue Barker stated that there were two instances where one older woman had 7 cats and she wanted to give them up since she had trouble feeding them. Her family intervened and took the cats to other towns. Sue stated that the Environmental Health Specialists only get involved if a neighbor calls to complain about a cat on their property which then becomes a nuisance complaint, and it is followed up by Bergenfield working with Bergen County to address the issue. Mr. Bergamini explained how they deal with the nuisance cats and sick and injured kittens.

President Cabuhat mentioned that he too is a Nurse, and he asked Mr. Fedorko if the public should be concerned about illness or feral cats. Mr. Fedorko responded, saying that the concern will be rabies, which is the main disease. Rabies was discussed then in detail. President Cabuhat asked Dr. Cheriyan if there are guidelines for prenatal. Sue Barker mentioned that the CDC has guidelines. Dr. Cheriyan responded the CDC has a general awareness for pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals.

President Cabuhat read a Health News Article from France regarding Toxoplasmosis; he discussed the article in detail. Ms. Brooks resident expressed her concern about the presence of feral cats among the kids and the nuisance that it has become in backyards. Mrs. Pfannen mentioned that it is a nuisance factor aside from the rabies and Toxoplasmosis issue. Sue Barker reiterated that Bergen County cannot release any cats to Bergenfield since the Ordinance does not allow feral cat colonies or TNR. Mr. Cabuhat thanked the representatives from Bergen County animal control for their presence.

There being no one present who wished to be heard on a motion made by Mrs. Pfannen and Seconded by Mrs. Aquino the time for Open Hearings was closed.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Cheriyan seconded by Mrs. Pfannan and carried that the minutes of the regular meeting of **September** 2025 be accepted as written.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Mrs. Delacruz stated that on behalf of President Cabuhat, Purchase Orders have been signed by Mrs. Delacruz and submitted. A motion was made by Dr. Cheriyan and seconded by Vice- President Plan and carried that the following bills were reviewed and approved.

McKesson Medical- \$ 1338.59
WB Mason - \$ 112.44

REPORTS**Legal and Finance**

“ No Report “

Medical

Dr. Cheriyan mentioned measles and said that Jim has presented an excellent explanation regarding the index case detailed in writing and they are awaiting September 20th and hope that whoever was exposed was not infected by the measles.

Personnel

“No Report”

Publicity

The Board of Health meeting was advertised on the Bergenfield Website, The Record and Cablevision.

Liaison To Mayor & Council

“No Report”

Legislature & Regulatory

“No Report”

Written Reports of the Department

Sue Barker stated the REHS report was long. She stated there were incidents of live rats being observed in two areas one on Chestnut St and the other on Porter Avenue, she stated that all the details regarding these issues are in her report. Sue Barker stated that lots of new businesses were opening and had been opened in Bergenfield. She mentioned them below.

1. La Cuchina Restaurent – Opened
2. Tropical Juice Bar- Opened
3. Peruvian Restaurant
4. Sweet Swirl – Opened
5. **New Farmers market on Portland- Pending**
6. **Hair and facial treatment- Pending**
7. **Coffee Shop -Pending**

She mentioned that Ruby and she are working with all the new businesses to get their plans submitted and approved.

Ruby Parra mentioned the emergency on Eat Well Modern Buffet located at 477 S Washington Ave. She mentioned that a memo was sent out to the Board. They were given a specific list of things that needed to be done, dry out the basement, remove the food and get a plumber to verify why they had the leak. However, they have not responded and remain closed. This was discussed in detail. Ruby Parra said that she had told them that she would like to see all the work done so she could complete a full inspection.

Ms. Brooks Resident mentioned that all the stores around South Washington are closed Mr. Corey Gallo answered that the area is being designated as a redevelopment and there is a project in place which will consist of apartments with some businesses.

She mentioned nice new buildings in Hackensack and Mr. Gallo stated that there are multiple projects starting to come into Bergenfield. Ms. Brooks had many suggestions to which Mr. Gallo said it will be discussed further.

Mr. Gallo apologized he was not on the entire call since he had an emergency. Mr. Fedorko welcomed back everyone and thanked Sue and Ruby regarding the complaints with the feral cats and for their hard work this Summer. He mentioned the measles case in Bergenfield on August 31st and the infectious period was August 22nd to 30th and there were quite a few people exposed to this case and so far there have not been secondary cases. He also thanked Liz for her work on this measles case. He mentioned that in Bergen County there were 60 measles cases that had to be tracked but there were no secondary cases. He mentioned that shared service agreement with Englewood and Bergenfield and that Englewood has been looking for a health officer for a year. He said he suggested Englewood and the Mid Bergen Board combine the services of this agreement. He discussed this in detail. He mentioned the health education programs. President Cabuhat asked Mr. Fedorko if there are any guidelines for MMR vaccinations. Mr. Fedorko explained this further and the need to have the MMR vaccines for school entry.

A motion was made by Dr. Cheriyan and seconded by Mrs. Aquino and carried that the written reports for September 2025 be accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. DeLaCruz stated there was no correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

“No Report”

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Dela Cruz read the Ordinance and 1st reading. Chapter 344-26 of the Borough of Bergenfield entitled Sanitary Code ‘Sale of Vapor Products’. All members agreed and The 1st reading passed on roll call.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. DeLaCruz mentioned that the Employee flu clinic at Walgreens will be held on September 25th Thursday from 10am to 1pm. Mrs. Delacruz said that Mr. Tully from the school requested another program for the Teachers who could not make the time slots that were designated, and she is working with Walgreens on another date or more time slots for the 25th. Mrs. DeLaCruz mentioned that the rabies clinic will be on December 14, 2025 from 11 to 1 and it will be a drive through clinic.

ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Dr. Cheriyan seconded by Mrs. Pfannen and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Annemarie DelaCruz
Registrar of Vital Statistics, CMR*