

**BOROUGH OF RARITAN  
BOARD OF HEALTH SPECIAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 19, 2022~ 7:30PM**

This Special Meeting of the Borough of Raritan Board of Health was called to order by Board President Machala, on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notices of this meeting were sent to The Courier News and the Star Ledger on October 17, 2022. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, on the Raritan Borough website and filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted. Proper notice having been given the Secretary is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Anna Bongiovi, Nina Dorey, Gennifer Hoffmeister, Jessica Ivan, Paula Machala, Kathryn Mastice

Absent: Preni Nair (excused)

Also Present: Michael McCarty, Assistant Director SCHD, Mayor Bray, Council President Carra, Councilwomen Melitsky and Constance M. Del Rocco, Secretary

**FLAG SALUTE**

Board President Machala led the flag salute

**DISCUSSION**

Rodent Infestation (Tillman, North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Street) with all that were present.

M. McCarty noted this issue with the rodents has been a complaint for about a year on and off. He noted that he and Brian Blute, Property Maintenance have inspected this area multiple times and have not seen any rodents or droppings. He added this is not uncommon, at the time the building and surroundings on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue were unkept with long weeds and grass the property had been cited a number of times. He added once the property was cleaned there were a number of holes around the property. He noted the large amount of construction that has gone on in this area (Tillman, North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Street) also the railroad has been fixing issues on the tracks behind this area and there is garbage that is being dumped along the tracks. Construction is also being done by residents in this area, all these issues are sending rats everywhere looking for food and shelter. Problems with using garbage bags and garbage containers without lids could be part of this problem as well.

He noted getting an exterminator is a good idea but it's a band-aid unless the entire neighborhood works together to eliminate the issues. He added this is going to be around for a

while until everyone works together, the food sources need to be eliminated, the areas need to be kept cleaned.

Board Vice President Dorey noted a number of dumpsters at the Crossings that are overflowing, along with unkept grounds.

Mayor Bray noted a list of issues that he would look into of as soon as tomorrow (10/20/2022)

Contact NJ Transit cleanup along tracks for garbage.  
Review current garbage can/garbage bag ordinance.  
Crossings (apt building) speak about dumpsters over loading trash issues.  
Speak with the new owner of bar (5<sup>th</sup> Street and the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street) to see if there are issues with rodents.  
Inspection of Bar and surrounding area to see where the key problems are.  
Possibility of exterminator once areas are established as the problems.

BOH President Machala noted this a good beginning.

The BOH was in-favor of all the items on the list noted by Mayor Bray.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this point the Board of Health welcomes comments from any member of the public. To help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers are asked to limit their comments to 5 minutes. If reading from a prepared statement, please provide a written copy after making your comments. Please sign in by printing your name and address.

Steven Binder, 607 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Raritan, New Jersey 08869 noted he has used over 39 traps on the rats and his neighbors have used around the same. He added he hasn't seen any garbage cans from neighbors that are overflowing. He added they have seen rats on their property but don't know where they are coming from unable to track them to their nests. He noted we just want help from the Borough to take care of this issue. He added we don't want our children to play in an area that is unsafe. Rats spread disease and there are droppings all around my yard and my neighbor's property. He added as the vacant property and surroundings have been cleaned the rats are more visible especially when the bamboo was removed from the area around the vacant bar.

Gerald Carvajal, 81 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Raritan, New Jersey 08869  
Noted a birthday party in his backyard where family and friends saw rodents in the yard looking for food. He added there have been a large number of rats that were trapped by me and neighbors.

Board Vice President Dorey suggested placing the information supplied by SCHD titled Rodent Control on the BOH's Facebook page, also keeping everyone updated on resolves or additional issues.

The BOH agreed with both suggestions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board Member Bongiovi motioned to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Mastice. Motion carried at 8:17pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance M. Del Rocco, Secretary  
Raritan Borough Board of Health

Approved: November 09, 2022