

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
January 13, 2015**

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Health of the Township of Mahwah, held at the Municipal Offices, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:50 PM by President, Sydney Harris.

The Opening Statement was read according to the Sunshine Law and was followed by Roll Call:

PRESENT: Mr. Harris
 Mr. LaMontagne
 Mrs. Mertz
 Mr. O'Brien
 Mr. Wasson

ABSENT: Dr. DeMaria
 Mrs. DeSilva

PROFESSIONALS: Mrs. Campbell, Secretary
 Mr. Mason, Attorney
 Mrs. Homler, Principal REHS

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mr. LaMontagne and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2014.

Mr. Wasson commented on the number of fowl licensing issues being addressed by the Department, pondering if these were violations of defiance or ignorance. He suggested we may need to consider ways to promote the Ordinance.

Mrs. Homler stated that she is updating our Fowl License application to require that written approval from the Administrative Zoning Officer must be submitted with any application. Zoning laws currently preclude fowl on any parcel less than five acres

Mrs. Campbell noted that even if originally unaware, the resident who received a summons was issued an abatement notice first, and it gave them ample time to address the violation.

A brief discussion on the growing popularity of sustainability, local marketing and farm-to-table initiatives ensued.

Mr. O'Brien pointed out that a Resolution acted upon at the December meeting to re-appoint Mr. Mason as the Board of Health Attorney for 2015 was not reflected in the Minutes. Mr. Harris thanked Mr. O'Brien for spotting the omission.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Minutes of the December 9, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved with the noted correction.

HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mrs. Mertz and, seconded by Mr. Wasson to approve the Health Activities Report for November 2014.

Mrs. Mertz perceived an increase in the number of spot checks of food establishments and Mr. Harris asked what, if anything, precipitated this. Mrs. Homler explained that spot checks are employed for a variety of reasons. Mr. Grotheer had been busy distributing copies of our new Food Safety Certification Ordinance to many of the establishments. He reviewed it with the owners and managers so they would know what was going to be required of them. Additionally, Mr. Maas had made several joint-inspections of grease traps with the Plumbing Inspector, Russell Hall. Spot check inspections (even when time-intensive) are not rated, but the category serves to document work performed and directives issued. Only full Chapter 24 inspections are listed as "Routine" and they are rated, as are Re-inspections.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Health Activities Report for December was unanimously approved.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT DECEMBER

Moved by Mrs. Mertz and, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Health Officer's Report for December.

Mr. Mason asked if a decision had been reached regarding the licensing of pot-bellied pigs as pets. Mrs. Homler responded that Council chose not to license these pigs as doing so would exceed the scope of their Ordinance. It defines pets only as dogs and cats.

Mrs. Campbell had expressed her concern to Mr. Maas that whether or not the pig is licensed, we know that it spends time outdoors and is at risk of contracting rabies - the same as a dog or cat.

Mrs. Mertz is concerned that this sets a precedent, and we have been told there are many pigs in town that are kept as house pets.

Mr. O'Brien noted that in the South, many jurisdictions specifically limit the licensing of pet pigs to the Vietnamese pot-bellied breed and expressly prohibit all others. He suggested amending our Code to adopt a similar regulation may solve the dilemma. Mrs. Campbell explained that we approached Council because they reserve the legal authority to license pets and, therefore, we cannot.

Mr. Harris asked how many times this licensing issue has presented to the Department. In her tenure, Mrs. Homler could only recall one or two others. Mr. Harris and Mr. LaMontagne concluded that it is essentially a non-issue.

Mr. Mason suggested that if Dr. DeMaria believes there is a risk of rabies transmission, the Board should send Council a memo indicating same. The Council may then choose to act on it or not but, our concerns are then on record and we can "close this chapter". Mr. Harris agreed.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Health Officer's Report for December was unanimously approved.

BILLS - DECEMBER

No bills to present.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No Activity.

REPORT OF LIAISON TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

No Activity.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

No activity.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Campbell advised that next month the Board will be asked to renew the contracts for Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission for Health Officer services and with HARP for Public Health Nursing services.

Mr. Harris elicited comments and opinions on the services being provided. There was unanimous praise for Mrs. Musella from staff and Board Members alike. Some concerns were raised about HARP's administrative performance and the public health education services we were receiving. Mrs. Campbell offered to email copies of both contracts to give the Members additional time to review them.

Mr. O'Brien noted that influenza illness was rampant this year and asked if we could do more educational outreach or hold another clinic. Mrs. Campbell responded that we do offer educational brochures and literature promoting vaccination. However, we used all of our vaccine at our October clinic, and since we are operating under the Temporary Budget we likely don't have the funds available to buy more.

Regarding health promotion, Mrs. Homler related that she had stopped at Mrs. Musella's office earlier in the day and she displayed several 'give-away' items that were in a basket on NWBRHC's counter. She praised the great job their Health Educator does promoting public health in a variety of ways via their website, promotional give-aways, programs and literature. It was generally agreed that there is a need to better promote both public health and the services offered by Mahwah.

Mr. Harris allowed that in the past, we have invited HARP to come and discuss their services and/or any concerns. He instructed anyone who desired a meeting with the nurses to contact Mrs. Musella directly to arrange it.

There being no further questions or discussion, a motion to close the meeting was made at 8:30pm by Mr. LaMontagne, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for **February 10, 2015** at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell
Secretary