

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
June 14, 2016**

The regular 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 7:33 PM by President, Sydney Harris.

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

PRESENT: Mr. Harris
 Mrs. Mertz
 Mr. O'Brien
 Dr. DeMaria
 Mrs. DeSilva
 Mr. Wasson

ABSENT: Mr. LaMontagne

PROFESSIONALS: Mrs. Musella, Health Officer
 Mr. Mason, Attorney
 Mr. Maas, REHS
 Mrs. Hagan, Acting Secretary

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, agreed by all present to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2016.

Mr. Harris noted he was in agreement with Dr. DeMaria regarding the benefits of maintaining hens and wished to go on record in that regard. He opined that the Township should be making it easier for residents to keep hens and hopes that the Planning Board will carefully consider amending those laws if residents request them.

Mr. Mason confirmed that while it is a Zoning issue, the Board of Health Code regarding fowl has sufficient provisions to accommodate a change to Zoning regulations.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria to approve the Health Activities Report for May.

Mr. Harris requested the current status of a potable water issue at the Stryker facility. Discoloration in the municipally supplied water prompted an investigation by Township Health and Water Department personnel. Mrs. Musella confirmed that the situation was resolved.

Mrs. DeSilva was concerned with the amount of food voluntarily destroyed at the 7-Eleven on Franklin Turnpike. Mr. Maas responded that Mr. Grotheer had performed this inspection; equipment malfunction was to blame, and he has asked them to replace the unit.

Mr. Harris could not recall another time when so many establishments were asked to destroy food in a single month; there were four noted in May. Upon being queried, Mrs. Musella confirmed there were no recent changes to the Standards nor power failure common to the four establishments.

Mrs. DeSilva asked for additional information on the Conditional rating issued to Papa Leone's Deli. Mr. Maas said there were housekeeping, sanitation and food safety certification compliance deficiencies.

Mr. Harris then questioned the number of pre-operational pool inspections (31). Mrs. Musella stated that May is an intensely busy month opening the seasonal pools; not only the Municipal pool, but those in the condominiums as well. Mr. Maas stated nineteen condominiums license their pools with us, as well as Brookside Lake.

Mrs. Mertz requested a synopsis of the information provided at the May Bergen County Health Officers' meeting on sushi. Mr. Maas said basic safety prep was covered, i.e. acidification of rice, using a pH meter, keeping logs, etc. He has a copy of the slide show used during the presentation and will send it electronically to all the Board Members.

Mr. Harris requested the rationale behind performing a routine inspection one day then returning the very next to do a spot check; was it simply to confirm that promised corrections were made? Mr. Maas responded affirmatively. He explained that even when an inspector issues a Satisfactory rating, there may be non-critical issues he/she wants addressed as soon as possible before they escalate. In the case of a Conditional rating, it is already established that there are critical issues to be addressed, and a spot check ensures that they are.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz to accept the Health Officer's Report for May.

Mrs. DeSilva asked for details regarding a resident who had contacted the Department after finding an underground pipe on his property that he claimed originated from an adjacent lot. The pipe was discovered when the resident was digging footings to reinforce an existing structure on his property. The resident called and asked Mr. Maas to come up immediately as a cement truck was already en route.

Mr. Maas went to the property and confirmed there was a black, perforated pipe but was unable to confirm its purpose. He immediately contacted the Building Department, only to find out there were no permits issued for any construction on the complaining resident's property. The Code Official then came to the property, determined the structure was unsafe and ordered him to take it down.

The homeowner then excavated the pipe to find it stopped short of his property line. Mr. Maas noted that between 1900 and 1940 there were three dwellings between the two adjacent lots that likely shared a septic. There were no plans, permits or approvals required at that time, and the current homeowner purchased the property without benefit of a home or septic inspection.

Mr. Mason inquired about some issues our inspector encountered at the Lacrosse Tournament at Ramapo College. Mrs. Musella explained Mason Jar of Mahwah was solicited by the event organizer at the last minute to provide food. As Mason Jar is already licensed, the biggest problem here was not the lack of a temporary food license (which they could have come in and filed after the fact) but the Fire Code violations in their temporary set up.

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

BILLS

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously approved by all present to pay the Bills for May.

REPORT OF LIAISON TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

No report; Mr. LaMontagne absent.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mrs. Mertz, Sunshine Committee Chairperson, reported that she had sent flowers to Mr. LaMontagne on behalf of the Members. Mr. Harris thanked her for attending to this matter.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason reported that he had reached out to the Society Hill Homeowners Association attorney regarding a hoarding issue we had been contacted about. Mr. Mason is awaiting a return call but is hopeful that a Fire Inspection may resolve the current situation.

On a related note, Mr. Harris asked Mr. O'Brien for the status of a hoarding presentation he was attempting to arrange for the Board. Mr. O'Brien responded that a conflict precluded the speaker (who is also an EMT) from attending this evening, but they will reschedule an alternate date.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Hagan read a note received from Mr. LaMontagne thanking the Board and staff for their thoughtfulness and well wishes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Musella provided details of the Health Educator's activities at Norfolk Village as well as plans for a presentation at the Children's Learning Center which is under new ownership. Ms. Abbruzzese will also assist Mrs. Musella in a presentation to the CERT volunteers on Zika virus.

Mrs. Mertz appreciated and commended Ms. Abbruzzese's communication and interface with the school nurses; a sentiment being expressed by her colleagues as well.

Mr. O'Brien voiced concern regarding a retention pond by the entrance to Ramapo Reservation which is chronically filled with stagnant water and algae. Mrs. Musella stated that last week she had reached out to Bergen County Mosquito Control for a list of sites that are being maintained and monitored for larval activity in her towns. She will follow up and inquire specifically about this site tomorrow.

Discussion ensued as to the Mosquito Commission's historically good response time and efficiency. Mr. Wasson asked if they would assist individual homeowners with ponds or standing water. Mrs. Musella stated that they may assist by providing larvae eating fish or 'dunks' (Bt-I) - an environmentally friendly pesticide.

Regarding plans for an addiction prevention program, Mr. O'Brien has received a positive response from University Hospital in Newark who is willing to send an ER physician to give a lecture. He is also in discussion with a pharmacist who may be able to make a presentation as well. He has not heard back from St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, but will follow up with them also.

Mr. O'Brien said the key to attendance will be the ability to offer CEU's - especially pharmacological CEU's which are harder to come by. Decisions will need to be made regarding the type of event we want to organize: i.e. strictly a lecture program, possibly held in the Municipal Building, or something on the order of a professional symposium in partnership with the Mahwah Municipal Alliance.

Mr. Harris applauded Mr. O'Brien's initiative in getting this program off the ground. He feels education should be a prime goal of the Board in its mission to prevent illness and safeguard the public health. He then noted that the Municipal Building would be a cost-free venue and adequate to accommodate many guests.

Discussion ensued concerning the program objectives and target audience. Mr. Harris' inclination is to address the public at large; addressing medical professionals in a symposium seems to exceed our mission statement. Mr. O'Brien understands this concern, but countered that we have many medical facilities in Mahwah that are frequented by our residents. If we can affect a reduction in opiate prescriptions written, that could have an immediate impact on our residents. Mrs. Musella feels that the Mahwah Municipal Alliance will be more disposed to partner if we are addressing the community. Dr. DeMaria opined that push-back from their own clients is often more likely to affect how a doctor practices medicine than a lecture.

Mr. O'Brien will reach out again to University Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, Barnert and Rutgers, proposing a change to the target audience but concentrating on the same message.

Mr. Mason inquired if Mahwah was testing for lead in our public schools. Mrs. Musella noted there was no requirement for us to perform testing or demand that it be done. Mrs. Mertz advised that the Board Of Education has already done testing voluntarily and that pipes in her office at George Washington were replaced. Mrs. Musella discussed more stringent guidelines that will be instituted to safeguard school children from lead. This will include a mandatory requirement for immediate public notification of any lead exceedance.

Dr. DeMaria wished to apprise the Members of an initiative called "Stop The 77" which refers to the statistic that 77 percent of dog bites are inflicted upon the biting dogs' families or members of their friends' families. A video by the same name is available online at www.stopthe77.com. It is child friendly and teaches different ways to gauge what an animal is 'saying' to you based on its body language.

PUBLIC

Mr. Harris opened the floor to the public. Two students, Elizabeth Finneran and Abigail Parker, were in attendance to fulfill a Government in Politics class requirement. Mario Genduso stated he was interested in the activities of the Board of Health. When no questions were proffered, Mr. Harris thanked them for their interest and offered to sign papers for the students to document their attendance.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:17pm was made by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Mrs. DeSilva and, approved by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2016 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell
Secretary