

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
July 12, 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 7:30 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
 Mrs. DeSilva
 Mr. Wasson

ABSENT: Mr. O'Brien
 Dr. DeMaria
 Mr. LaMontagne

PROFESSIONALS: Mrs. Homler, REHS
 Mrs. Campbell

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Mrs. DeSilva to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 14, 2016.

Relevant to the conversation regarding lead testing in Mahwah schools, Mrs. Mertz wished to clarify that voluntarily tests were conducted in all schools. Samples from George Washington and Betsy Ross Schools did not exceed permitted thresholds but were higher than the district was comfortable with. Corrective measures were taken to reduce the lead readings at those outlets. The schools will also voluntarily test again next year.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Regular Minutes of the June 14, 2016 meeting were approved.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz to approve the Health Activities Report for June.

Mrs. DeSilva requested additional information regarding the quarantine of a biting pig. Mrs. Homler explained that the pig was not at-large, but indoors when a visiting neighbor sustained a bite to her ankle. The pig was immunized against the rabies virus and is subject to quarantine for ten days from the date of the bite. Mrs. Mertz asked if the animal was being quarantined at home or in a facility. Mrs. Homler responded that, like most quarantines, this one was being performed at home by the owner. In rare cases, if the owner of a biting animal is not cooperative or the inspector is not confident they will perform the quarantine responsibly, a professional quarantine can be mandated.

Mr. Wasson questioned an abatement notice for poison ivy on private property. Mrs. Homler confirmed that our code prohibits it as a noxious weed. The abatement was written after receiving a complaint from an employee whose assigned parking spot was adjacent to the growth. The complainant is highly allergic, and her employer was not addressing the issue.

Mrs. DeSilva noted four abatements regarding cattle licensing deficiencies (but none for horse or fowl) and asked if there was a common denominator. Mrs. Homler didn't believe so. Of the four cases, three are now abated. Mr. Harris asked if all the properties were approved for cattle by Zoning. Mrs. Homler responded affirmatively; all were long standing licensees. She further stated that site inspections are performed by Tyco Animal Control only after all licensing requirements (signed application, payment of fee, and submission of immunization documents) are fulfilled.

Mr. Harris pointed out that we have had two consecutive months wherein multiple establishments were asked to voluntarily destroy large quantities of food. Mrs. Homler responded that two food establishments had temperature abuse issues. At Brandywine, however, the dinner chef overheated a sauce pan containing oil, and it began to smoke. He then transferred the pot to the three-bay sink and in so doing, triggered the smoke detector over the sink. Only the food being prepared for that evening's meal was discarded.

Mrs. Homler then discussed the equipment problems Mr. Grotheer encountered at the Sheraton which predicated destruction of some 45 pounds of food product. On re-inspection, Mr. Grotheer found they were still holding food in the malfunctioning units, and he issued another Conditional rating. Repair technicians have since confirmed the equipment cannot be fixed, and \$12,000 worth of new units have been ordered. Mrs. Homler also confirmed that the Sheraton has several walk-in units which are being utilized in the interim.

Mr. Harris noted that the Sheraton spa was also cited for inadequate bromine levels. Mrs. Homler explained that there have been consistent discrepancies between the lab test results and test results obtained by the Sheraton pool staff - in some cases by as much as six points. Testing procedures and testing instruments/materials (i.e. reagent drops vs. tablets) can cause different results. Mr. Maas has been working with the engineers at the Sheraton and has also been in contact with Garden State Labs and Tim Smith at the State Department of Health to determine the cause of the discrepancies and how to rectify the situation.

Mrs. Mertz asked for details on the destruction of food at the Valero (Subway) establishment. Mrs. Homler said the refrigeration unit on site is of the "grab and go" variety. The inspectors have seen this tiered, open, tree-type refrigeration unit in Bolla Market, both Valeros and in the 7-Elevens. She does not believe it is the best design as it does not hold temperatures as well as some traditional units. On a side note, she informed the assembly that this location is looking to add a Cinnabon kiosk.

Mrs. DeSilva questioned the bench warrant issued against a resident who had not licensed her dog. Mrs. Homler was advised this was the court's procedure after a defendant's second failure to appear. An unlicensed dog was discovered when the Mahwah Police called upon Tyco to round up several Mahrapo Farm horses that had followed the dog over the farm wall and onto Ramapo College property. The dog belongs to one of the farm caretakers. An abatement notice to the caretaker was issued and ignored just as the subsequent summons and court dates were.

Mrs. Homler then explained that an article had appeared in the paper last week prominently featuring the caretaker and the horse rescue activities at the farm. Because of this, she contacted Carol Tyler giving her a heads-up that the farm had not completed its licensing requirements and there was also a bench warrant sworn out against the caretaker. Ms. Tyler reported back that the bench warrant has been satisfied, and the farm's paperwork will be submitted shortly.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. Wasson to approve the Health Officer's Report.

Mr. Harris asked for a status report on Zika response activities. Mrs. Homler responded that we are continually receiving updated information as the situation evolves. Our Health Educator, Erica Abbruzzese, has prepared articles and information for the residents which have been posted on the Township website. Ms. Abbruzzese made a Zika presentation to the CERT volunteers and also assisted in the creation of a door hang-tag that can be left by inspectors to put residents on notice if conditions on their properties encourage mosquito harborage.

Mrs. Homler also advised that effective July 21st, responsibility for recommending Zika testing will transfer from the State to the local health jurisdiction. Thus far, she is unaware of any local requests for testing. The State has issued a guidance document which will be discussed in detail during a webinar scheduled for July 18th. Mrs. Homler has sent appropriate information to the DPW and to the condominiums in an effort to reduce mosquito breeding areas.

There was brief discussion regarding the conditions in the Brazilian state of Rio De Janeiro where the Summer Olympics are being held. In addition to being a hot-bed of Zika transmission, there are also major health concerns regarding antibiotic resistant bacteria and raw sewage in waterways that will be hosting events. The unanimous consensus was that when considering crime and public health concerns, there are far better locations to convene a global event of this magnitude.

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

BILLS

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz and, unanimously approved by all present to pay the Bills for June.

REPORT OF LIAISON TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

No report; Mr. LaMontagne absent.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No activity.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

No report; Mr. Mason absent.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Harris informed the Members that the Office of Emergency Management has conferred responsibility to CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) for dispensing medications in the event of a biologic or terroristic attack or emergency. Board of Health Members, staff of the Health Department, and immediate family members living with them are considered first responders in these events and, as such, will be entitled to receive prophylactic medications provided by the State and/or CDC. All first responders will be asked to complete an application providing information on themselves and their household census. Mr. Harris will coordinate with Mrs. Campbell to forward the applications electronically.

Mrs. Homler briefly detailed the Health Education activities and programs offered by Ms. Abbrussezze during the month of June.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:15pm was made by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. Wasson and, approved by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2016 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell
Secretary