

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
June 13, 2017**

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 7:30PM by President, Sydney Harris.

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

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

ABSENT: Dr. DeMaria
 Mr. LaMontagne

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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2017.

Mr. Harris referenced a discussion of one of our court cases. He was very troubled over what he deemed to be an excessive fine levied against a resident. Mrs. Homler explained that the defendant had been warned multiple times over several years to cease feeding wildlife. He also had a prior conviction on the same charge. While not requested by us, the Prosecutor chose to apply the maximum fine our Code permits. Mrs. Campbell was aware that the defendant changed his plea at least twice during the course of the proceedings and the case itself had been postponed multiple times. Perhaps the Prosecutor felt the defendant was 'gaming' the system.

Mr. Mason noted the discussion regarding administrative issues with a summons issued to Bolla Market. He suggested revising our license applications to request the name of a Responsible Party (as designated

by the licensee) in lieu of simply requesting the name of the owner. He offered to review our current license applications if necessary.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Minutes of the May 9, 2017, Regular Meeting were unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Health Activities Report for May.

Mrs. Mertz asked if the number of quarantines this month was unusually high. Mrs. Homler did not believe so and stated that there are probably more [bites/exposures] taking place than we are notified of. However, Mrs. Musella confirmed that in the warmer weather people spend more time outdoors with their pets. This increases the opportunities for altercations between pets and humans or wildlife.

Mrs. Mertz then requested an explanation of how the reported quarantines and releases related to animal to human exposures vs. all other exposures. Mrs. Homler dispelled a misconception that only unvaccinated dogs were quarantined. Rather, all biting dogs are quarantined, and the duration of the quarantine period is determined by the vaccine status.

Mrs. Mertz inquired if a pit bull that had bitten a child at one of our parks in April had been located. Mrs. Homler had worked with Tyco Animal Control to find this animal. There were two animals that were apprehended that were possible matches; one in Mahwah, the other in Oakland. Neither of the two turned out to be the biting animal. That dog was never located and, consequently, the child is now undergoing rabies prophylaxis.

In this vein, Mrs. Homler related a conversation she had with the Bergen County Park's Director. She suggested that they post information and/or provide forms for people who might be involved in an animal altercation. It should direct them in what information they need to obtain or document. This would also assist the local health jurisdiction by properly identifying who should be quarantining the animal and/or who needs to be provided medical/police/lab reports.

Mrs. Musella stated that most people do not ask enough questions or get complete information from the owner of a biting animal. Mr. O'Brien's experience in the hospital is that people are reticent to provide specific information even if they have it. He feels this is

done to 'protect' the friend or family member who owns the biting animal from adverse consequences.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Mr. Harris inquired about activities at Mr. Surgent's farm. Mrs. Homler stated that Tyco Animal Control has confirmed that Mr. Surgent hired a full-time, female helper. Mrs. Tyler was encouraged by the work thus far accomplished but will give the helper time to 'settle in' before returning to do a full inspection.

Mrs. DeSilva asked if the issues on 17 North Hillside were for the same property we had monitored mosquito harborage for years. Mrs. Musella confirmed it was.

Mrs. Homler updated the Members on her meeting at the site with a technician from the Bergen County Mosquito Commission and with our Code Official, Daniel Mairella. No larvae were observed at the time, but the pool was treated with an anti-larval that will last 180 days.

In 2016, the DPW was given and spent approximately \$12,000 to clean up the property and secure the pool and home. We continued to monitor the pool for mosquito harborage and coordinate trapping of a feral cat population with Tyco.

This past winter a storm caused some of the tie downs on the newly installed pool safety cover to snap and much of the cover ended up in the bottom of the pool. Neighbors who can see the pool reported water was once again collecting in the pool. They have been dealing with this issue for many years and are anxious for a permanent resolution.

On Thursday, June 8th, the Council passed a resolution to put a lien on the property to recoup monies spent and additional funds that are still needed to secure the property. A new contractor is scheduled to be on the site June 14th, to make additional repairs including sealing a hole that had been punched into the side of the home.

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

BILLS

Moved by Mr. O'Brien and, seconded by Mrs. DeSilva and, unanimously approved by all present to pay the Bills for May.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No activity.

REPORT OF LIAISON TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

No activity.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

No activity.

OTHER BUSINESS

Apropos to many of the Board's recent discussions, Mr. Wasson provided Mr. Mason an article from the Bergen Record regarding recent legislation adopted by Pompton Lakes regarding the keeping of fowl and livestock. Mr. Mason will review and scan/forward to the Members via email.

There being no further questions or discussion, a motion to adjourn was made at 7:55pm by Mr. LaMontagne, with a second by Mrs. DeSilva and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for **July 11, 2017**, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell
Secretary