

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
September 12, 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: Mr. Harris
 Mrs. DeSilva
 Mrs. Mertz
 Mr. Wasson

ABSENT: Dr. DeMaria
 Mr. O'Brien

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

Mr. Harris called for a moment of silence to honor our fallen Member, Mr. Robert LaMontagne, who passed suddenly on July 22, 2017. Mr. LaMontagne served honorably on this Board for nineteen years, and also served the Township as a volunteer fire fighter for over forty years. He will be dearly missed as our favorite 'straight shooter' and as the first Board of Health appointed Liaison to the Town Council.

Mr. Harris also asked that we remember those who suffered the loss of loved ones and the devastation of their homes, livelihoods and communities in the recent hurricanes.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2017.

Regarding the discussion of unsatisfactory pool water samples, Mr. Wasson had forwarded an article to Mr. Maas on the ability of labs to determine if swimmers who have consumed artificial sweeteners have urinated in a pool. Mrs. Homler confirmed that the article was received and discussed. She thanked him for the information.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Minutes for July 11, 2017, was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

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

Mrs. DeSilva requested additional information regarding a complaint received for water pollution and/or discharge. Mrs. Homler could not immediately recall the details but offered to email the information to her.

Mr. Wasson requested the process by which we determine food has been temperature abused. Mrs. Homler explained that during routine inspection, foods that are refrigerated and/or on display are tested with stem (internal) and quick read (surface) thermometers. If those temperature readings are outside the permissible range, the owner is asked to destroy the food. The amounts and weights are estimated by the inspector with the help of the operator, and then documented on a destruction log.

Mrs. Homler clarified that this method cannot rule out if food product has exceeded permissible temperatures along the way and been brought back down prior to testing.

Mrs. DeSilva noted the Conditional rating issued to CVS and inquired as to the violations. Mrs. Homler noted that Mr. Maas found many problems including dirty racks, issues with garbage storage and generally poor housekeeping. Like many chain pharmacies, in addition to shelf-stable groceries and snacks, CVS also carries a sizeable inventory of frozen and refrigerated products including dairy. Mrs. Musella stated the establishment has since been re-inspected and issued a Satisfactory rating.

Mrs. DeSilva then asked about the Conditional rating issued to Brandywine Living. Mrs. Homler stated that Mr. Maas performed this inspection and found several problems there. Most notably, turnover of the kitchen management and staff left them deficient in their Food Safety Certification requirements.

Mrs. Mertz noted the large number of animal bite investigations asking Mrs. Homler if any were of note. Mrs. Homler explained that some investigations involve more than one animal, but each animal involved must be "investigated". Therefore, the number of incidents may be somewhat lower than the number of investigations reported.

Mrs. Homler then said one family was taking post-exposure treatments for rabies as a bat was found in the home. The bat was sent to the State Lab for testing and came back with a negative result.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR JULY

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

Mr. Mason inquired about a report that large groups of people were swimming and jumping off of rocks into the water at Ramapo Reservation. Swimming is prohibited here.

The Business Administrator was made aware of the problem and asked to encourage the County, at an upcoming County Parks Master Plan meeting, to station a Ranger in the Park to guard the area and prevent a tragedy. Mrs. Homler was sorry to report that during her tenure in Mahwah, there had been four deaths by drowning, and she would never want to see another.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST

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

Mr. Harris asked about the nature of a livestock licensing complaint that resulted in the issuance of a summons. Mrs. Homler explained that a licensee did not wish to pay separately for two equines and two cattle. Instead he wished to pay a combined total of \$125 for four animals.

Over the course of several discussions with both Mrs. Homler and Mrs. Musella, it was explained that the law requires separate licenses. The licensee agreed to comply but did not actually fulfill his obligations until the day after the summons was issued.

In a similar case, Mrs. Homler stated that Tyco Animal Control was sent to investigate another licensee who paid for horse licenses but not for a pig that was harbored on the premises. Pigs are classified as cattle and need to be licensed separately. That license is still pending, and a summons was also issued.

Mrs. DeSilva asked about issues occurring at a horse farm on [Campgaw Road]. Mrs. Homler related that she had been reviewing the immunization certifications of the horses at Second Wind Equestrian Farm and found one missing. When she called the owner, he offered to provide the missing document but stated that this particular horse, among others he had licensed, had been relocated. He then shared his concerns over conditions at the property which he was leasing.

Tyco Animal Control was dispatched to do an inspection. Mrs. Tyler arrived on site and found huge piles of millwork, macadam and other rubble on the property. She called Mrs. Homler to assist in the inspection. While they found the horses were in good condition, the piles threatened contamination of the wetlands. The Zoning Official was contacted, and on his order truckloads of debris were removed.

The farm lessee was subsequently told to vacate the property. It is unknown if this was a result of the inspection and resultant action.

Mr. Harris inquired as to the new Zika Testing guidelines. Mrs. Musella explained that prior to the summer, pregnant women could be tested for Zika even if they were without symptoms. Thankfully, the incidence of Zika is on the decline. Because of this, persons must now exhibit at least one of the symptoms associated with the disease in order to qualify for testing by the State Health Department. There were other minor modifications to the guidelines as well.

Mrs. Musella stated that August and early September have been relatively quiet as far as inquiries and requests for Zika testing. One reason may be that commercial labs are now performing these screenings as well, (though not with the comprehensive or confirmatory tests that are available at the State Health Department).

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

BILLS

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

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No activity.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason requested a deferment of his report until such time as the Board could move into Executive Session. Mr. Harris agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Resolution 2017-07: Appointment of Flu Clinic Physician

Motion: Mrs. DeSilva

Second: Mrs. Mertz

Roll Call: 4 Ayes, 2 Absent

Motion carries.

b) Board Vacancy

Mr. Harris addressed the need to fill the vacant Board seat and opened the floor to discussion. Mrs. Mertz inquired of the long-tenured Members if there were any specific qualities or requirements they would be seeking in a candidate. Mrs. DeSilva said anyone with a

background in health services would be a welcome addition. Mr. Harris would be gratified to see a Doctor apply.

Mr. Mason offered to "put the word out" regarding the vacancy. However, he advised that the position of Liaison to Council and Administration that was held by Mr. LaMontagne be conferred upon an existing Member. He feels this should be done sooner rather than later.

Mr. Harris agreed, and asked those Members present to consider volunteering for that responsibility. He also approved a suggestion to place an announcement on the Township website or possibly an ad in the Suburban News that we were seeking a new Member.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

None presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mrs. Mertz, with a second by Mrs. DeSilva and, agreed by all present to move into Executive Session at 8:10pm to discuss a personnel matter.

On a motion by Mrs. DeSilva, with a second by Mrs. Mertz and, agreed by all present, the Board returned to Regular Session at 8:35pm.

There being no further questions or discussion, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:035 by Mrs. Mertz, with a second by Mr. Wasson and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for **October 10, 2017**, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell
Secretary