

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
May 14, 2019**

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 7:33PM by President, Sydney Harris.

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

PRESENT: Mr. Cimis
 Dr. DeMaria
 Mrs. DeSilva
 Mr. Harris
 Mr. Lofaso
 Mr. Matysiak

ABSENT: Mr. Wasson

PROFESSIONALS: Mrs. Musella, Health Officer
 Mr. Mason, Attorney
 Mrs. Homler, REHS
 Mr. Ervin, Council Liaison
 Mrs. Hagan, Secretary

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and seconded by Mr. Lofaso to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2019.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the status of the vicious dog case. Mrs. Homler informed the Board that only three witnesses had the opportunity to testify due to the defense attorney's lengthy line of questioning. The hearings are schedule to reconvene on May 17, 2019.

Mr. Cimis asked whether the Health Department has been receiving phone calls and questions regarding the safety and use of recycled tires as ground covering for playgrounds. To date, neither the Department nor the inspectors have received any inquiries on this subject.

Mr. Ervin stated that the Planning Board has addressed this issue, and an alternative to the rubber would be cork, however, this could also be problematic with regards to rain and water absorption. The recycled tire rubber has been determined to be the best option for playground covering at this time.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2019, were unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2019 HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and seconded by Mr. Cimis to approve the Health Activities Report for April 2019.

Mrs. DeSilva queried zoning issues and the keeping of fowl at 1010 Ramapo Valley Road. Mrs. Homler replied that due to time constraints, the Health Department has not yet evaluated the property to be certain that Health Department conditions are being met. As previously stated, the legality of harboring fowl on this property lies with the Zoning Department.

Mr. Matysiak queried where the communicable disease outbreak took place. Mrs. Homler replied that she visited Brandywine Senior Living and has been in close contact with the on-site nurse. The outbreak of [Pneumovirus] began on April 9th. There were seven cases overall with one patient hospitalized and one staff member infected. She commended the facility on their response to the outbreak. Mr. Cimis queried the healthcare worker's possibility of compromise. Mrs. Homler replied that the ill staff member was working with the sickest members of the community prior to becoming ill.

Mr. Mason queried what methods were used to treat the environment. Mrs. Musella responded the facility has very specific guidelines set forth by the CDC. All procedures were carried out according to CDC protocol.

Mr. Matysiak had questions regarding meetings at Ramapo College to discuss the recent local measles outbreaks. Mrs. Homler has been in communication with the nurse at Ramapo College who stated a handful of students have religious exemptions with regard to vaccines. Students from Rockland with exemptions are still permitted to attend as New Jersey recognizes the right to a religious exemption.

Mr. Mason queried the position of the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association (NJLBHA) on religious exemptions. Mrs. Musella stated the Association has no official position on this subject.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Health Activities Report for April 9, 2019, was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR APRIL 2019

Moved by Mr. Matysiak and seconded by Mrs. DeSilva to approve the Health Officer's Report for April 2019.

Mrs. DeSilva queried arsenic remediation at Apple Ridge. Mr. Ervin replied that the Planning Board has produced a letter indicating that all testing and remediation completed meets DEP standards.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Health Officer's report for April 9, 2019, was unanimously approved.

BILLS

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva, seconded by Mr. Lofaso and unanimously agreed by all present to approve the bills for April 2019.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No reports were presented.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason has reviewed the report on the vicious dog (aka Bella) and is available to assist if necessary. This is the first time in this Department's history that a vicious dog declaration has gone to trial.

Dr. DeMaria stated that a major concern with this dog is the fact that it has no owner and is in foster care. The dog can potentially be adopted out of state with no record of its biting history being revealed.

CORRESPONDENCE

None to present.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ervin updated the Board on the progress of the proposed noise ordinance. The new ordinance will be more specific with regard to hours for operation of lawn equipment, outside contractor services, etc. He stated the new ordinance focuses on quality of life issues.

Mrs. DeSilva queried how the noise at the Bergen County gun range is being handled. Mr. Ervin agreed that something needs to be done, however, this lies within the domain of the County officials. Several residents regularly attend the Township Council meetings to voice their concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public present.

There being no further comments or discussion, Mr. Cimis made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm, which motion was seconded by Mr. Lofaso and unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for **June 11, 2019**, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hagan
Secretary