

TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
MAY 8, 2012

The regularly scheduled 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 7:40 PM by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Robert LaMontagne.

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

PRESENT: Mr. LaMontagne  
Dr. DeMaria  
Mrs. DeSilva  
Mr. Wasson

ABSENT: Mr. Harris  
Mrs. Mertz  
Mrs. Spiech

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. Wasson and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 10, 2012.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria to approve the Health Activities Report for April 2012.

Based on personal experience and published reports, Mr. Wasson was concerned that we will see a marked increase in Lyme cases this year. Mrs. Musella agreed and stated that she had just received an

advisory from the State Health Department confirming this. Dr. DeMaria explained that due to the mild weather, there was no winter kill-off; instead ticks continued reproducing. After the spring, activity will diminish as we move into the hot summer months and then spike again in the fall. She stated that while ticks generally 'hitch' a ride onto an animal's or human's extremities, their attraction to carbon dioxide will lead them toward the head. Only female ticks attach to the host for a blood meal; ticks that you find on the floor or furniture within your home are probably males that were brushed off of clothing or a pet.

Mrs. DeSilva requested details regarding the Conditional rating issued to Hindu Samaj. Mr. Maas responded his inspection uncovered a meal moth infestation, old and moldy food, drain flies, unlabeled containers of food and generally poor housekeeping. Further, no one on staff holds food handler or food manager certification, and there are no thermometers on site to check temperatures.

Mrs. DeSilva asked for clarification as to why we are inspecting this kitchen which is not a restaurant and which uses a caterer to provide food for large functions. Mr. Maas responded that all non-profits with kitchens that serve the public are required to obtain a food license from the Department. The licenses are fee exempt, but subject the kitchen and personnel to the same safety standards and inspections as a profit entity.

Mr. Maas had two consultations with the new director of the Temple who is committed to resolving these issues. He has contracted a pest exterminator and a professional to clean and haul grease from the traps, and has had the ventilation hoods serviced and retagged in compliance with Fire Code. It will take time to eradicate the meal moths as no definitive source was found.

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

#### HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR APRIL

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria to approve the Health Officer's Report for April.

Mrs. Musella relayed that the CHIP (Community Health Improvement Project) will soon be offering online certification courses for Board of Health members. She opined that components of the certification process still need tweaking and is concerned that a

prerequisite to complete First and Second Phase I.C.S. (Incident Command Systems) training before enrolling in the Board of Health Certification class may constitute an undue hardship for potential candidates.

Mrs. Musella also announced that the Bergen County Public Health Partnership is now conducting a county-wide Needs Assessment Survey. By statute, and in accordance with the Public Health Practice Standards, these surveys must be done every three years. In 2012, hospitals are required to participate as well. This is of benefit to the Partnership in terms of both time and money. The cost of consultants, phone surveys, focus groups and mailings render the Assessment an expensive undertaking, and the hospitals will assume some of these costs formerly borne by the Partnership.

The results of the Needs Assessment should be tabulated and the resultant recommendations available to local Boards early next year.

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

#### BILLS

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Mrs. DeSilva and, unanimously agreed by all present to pay the bills for April.

#### REPORT OF ATTORNEY

None.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

A solicitation for membership was received from the National Local Boards of Health Association and distributed to the Members. After some discussion it was decided that the cost of membership exceeded the benefits afforded.

Further discussion turned to the possibility of joining the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association. This, too, was ultimately deemed unnecessary at the present time.

FURTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Maas wished to apprise the Members of the resolution of a Potentially Dangerous Dog investigation that has carried over from the prior year. Tyco Animal Control has closed the case against "Ratchet" after having given written notice to the owners that there must be no further incidents of aggression charged to this animal. As part of this notification, Tyco advised the owners that the dog will be declared "Potentially Dangerous" in the event of another incident and provided them a list of the legal consequences should this happen.

Mrs. DeSilva inquired as to what those consequences would be. Mrs. Campbell recited a partial list of the sanctions, including requirements to maintain a one-million dollar liability insurance policy, construction of a kennel with cement floor and a ceiling which must be enclosed within a second fenced area, conspicuous posting of signage warning of the presence of a Potentially Dangerous Dog, tattooing of the animal at the owner's expense, and an annual licensing fee of up to \$750.00.

Mrs. DeSilva inquired if aggression toward another animal would be treated the same as if the dog were to attack a human. Mrs. Musella believed that it would be.

There being no further questions or discussion, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:15pm by Mrs. DeSilva, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously approved by all present.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2012 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Campbell  
Secretary