

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
June 9, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health of the Township of Mahwah was held via Zoom video conference. The meeting was called to order at 7:57 PM by Board of Health President, George Cimis.

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

PRESENT: Mr. Cimis
Dr. DeMaria
Mrs. DeSilva
Ms. Esty
Mr. Harris
Mr. LoFaso
Mr. Matysiak

PROFESSIONALS: Mrs. Musella, Health Officer
Mr. Jeffrey Mason, Esq.
Mrs. Homler, REHS
Mr. Maas, REHS
Mrs. Wendolowski, HARP
Mr. Ervin, Council Liaison
Mrs. Campbell, Administrative Secretary
Mrs. Hagan, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MAY 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously agreed to by all present to approve the May 2020 Meeting Minutes.

APPROVAL OF MAY 2020 HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORTS

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. LoFaso to approve the Health Activities Report of May 2020.

Mr. Cimis queried Mr. Mass regarding a webinar he attended entitled, "The Pandemic and Children." Mr. Maas stated the material dealt with the psychological impact of the virus and the effect quarantine is having on school-aged children. The content did not address adverse health effects on this population.

Mr. Matysiak queried an abatement notice regarding fowl harborage at a property on Airmont Road. Mrs. Homler replied that Tyco visited the site, a letter was sent explaining the fowl ordinance, and the chicken and coop have since been removed.

Mr. Cimis queried updates regarding the hiring of contact tracers. Mrs. Musella explained that a pilot study is currently underway with the City of Camden and the Essex Regional Health Commission. It is hoped to have the program operational by the end of June; however, both Mrs. Musella and Mrs. Wendolowski agreed that training the new contact tracers has been a challenge. As the number of active cases in New Jersey has dropped during the past month, so have the opportunities for new contact tracers to develop the necessary skills to perform an effective investigation.

As discussed at the May 2020 meeting, people are hesitant to provide personal information over the phone. Also, the public has become more knowledgeable and will consult their physicians, news media or the internet regarding the need to isolate and/or quarantine. Mrs. Musella then stated that continuity of care and the ability to follow individuals also poses a problem. She feels the money appropriated for this program could be put to better use.

There being no further discussion, the May 2020 Health Activities Report was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MAY 2020

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mr. LoFaso to approve the Health Officer's Report for May 2020.

Mrs. Musella has been on daily conference calls with the State Health Department regarding updates to the COVID-19 outbreak and new protocols being instituted. Much of these calls are dedicated to the subject of contact tracing.

Mrs. Wendolowski, HARP, follows up on the cases within Mahwah's Long-Term Care facilities. She reports to the Mayor daily regarding infection protocol and outbreaks. Testing of residents at Long-Term Care facilities is done weekly or biweekly, and updated infectious disease control plans must be in place. Individuals who test negative must be tested twice at least 24 hours apart. Two negatives must be received before declaring a resident free of COVID-19 infection. Mrs. Wendolowski stated that Long-Term Care facilities are accepting new patients provided all mandated COVID-19 protocols can be satisfied.

Mr. Matysiak queried the use of antibody testing. Mrs. Wendolowski replied that there is a misperception that testing positive for the

antibody equates to immunity, however, there is no substantial data supporting this theory. At the current time, the value antibody testing provides is data.

Mr. Mason requested demographic information regarding those who were most susceptible to the virus. Mrs. Wendolowski replied that the average age of onset is between 40-50 years. The virus has affected more men than women. Individuals in the 70-80 year old range have more hospitalizations and have comorbidities such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The first reported case of illness was on March 10th. Currently 285 confirmed cases have been reported in the Township, and 23 individuals have expired. The majority of the infected individuals have recovered.

There being no further comments or discussion, the Health Activities Report for May 2020, was unanimously approved.

BILLS

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. Matysiak and, unanimously agreed to by all present to approve the bills for May 2020.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No Reports to present.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason is following up with the Prosecutor on the best way to secure payment for the impounded dog, Bella. It may be necessary to add a Resolution to our current Ordinance requiring a security deposit for animals that are impounded following a bite incident.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Hagan presented a flyer provided by the County of Bergen announcing a Community Mobile COVID-19 Testing site to be offered on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at the Mahwah Municipal Complex located at 475 Corporate Drive. The Saliva COVID-19 Test will be administered to residents or employees of any Bergen County municipality or government entity. The COVID-19 Antibody Test will only be offered to Bergen County first responders, healthcare workers, and Bergen County community members who had a prior COVID-19 positive diagnostic test.

OTHER BUSINESS

The challenges of holding our annual flu clinic in the midst of a pandemic, was brought up by Mrs. Musella. Mrs. Campbell stated that over the years, participation by our seniors has declined because flu vaccines are readily available at most pharmacies and local drugstores. Nevertheless, we also offer vaccination to employees and first responders, and hosting an annual clinic keeps us well practiced in its logistics. She noted the possibility that the Senior Center might not even be open this fall when the clinic would typically be held. Mrs. Wendolowski suggested that we continue to hold clinics at Norfolk Village and Chapel Green to accommodate those seniors unlikely to venture out.

Mr. Mason encouraged the Board to consider holding a limited clinic for staff and first responders. This would also be an opportune time to take inventory of PPE and order additional supplies for future use.

Dr. DeMaria queried the plausibility of holding a drive-thru vaccine clinic. Mrs. Musella and Mrs. Wendolowski believe this would be a viable alternative; however, there will be need for many volunteers to assist with completing paperwork and providing traffic control.

A straw poll of Board Members regarding a limited clinic yielded the following results: Mr. Cimis, Yes; Mrs. DeSilva, Yes; Mr. Matysiak, Yes; Mr. Harris, Yes; Mr. LoFaso, Yes; Dr. DeMaria, Yes. A motion to order a limited number of vaccines was introduced by Mr. Cimis and, seconded by Mr. Matysiak, and unanimously approved by all present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None made.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 pm was made by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mrs. DeSilva and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for **July 14th, 2020**, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hagan
Recording Secretary