

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
April 12, 2022**

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 7:02 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. George Cimis
Dr. Edie DeMaria
Mrs. Wendy DeSilva
Ms. Patricia Esty
Mr. Sydney Harris
Mr. Adam Matysiak
Mrs. Christy Varrato

PROFESSIONALS: Mrs. Gina Behre, Health Officer
Mrs. Donna Ruccione, Principle REHS
Mr. Daniel Maas, REHS
Mrs. Kathryn Hagan, Recording Secretary

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

In the absence of the Public Health Nurse, Mrs. Behre provided a brief summary and stated that NWBRHC is continuing to collaborate with the schools regarding updated Covid protocols. There were no outbreaks to report at the time of this meeting. The BA2 variant is the most reported strain accounting for 81% of all confirmed cases.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Ms. Esty to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2022.

There being no questions or comments, it was unanimously agreed to accept the March 2022 Meeting Minutes.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mr. Matysiak and, seconded by Ms. Esty to approve the Health Activities Report for March 2022.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the nature of the three reported cat bites. Mr. Maas replied that at this time, two cats have been released from quarantine. The third cat bit its owner while being transported to the veterinarian for euthanasia due to a large tumor on its head. The animal was euthanized and sent to the lab for testing. Negative rabies test results have been received.

Mr. Cimis queried whether a bite was involved causing a bat to be sent for testing. Mr. Maas replied that a resident had hired a contractor to seal some openings in the attic area of their home which caused a colony of bats to become trapped. The bats discovered an opening into the main living area, and three bats have been located in the home in the past several months. Since bat bites are microscopic and can occur while an individual is sleeping, bats that are found in a home should be captured and sent for rabies testing. All bats in this incident have tested negative.

Mr. Cimis queried what condition the bat must be in to be sent for testing. Mr. Maas stressed that it is important not to crush the head of the animal as it is the brain that must be examined and tested. If the brain is not intact, the specimen is deemed unacceptable for testing.

Mrs. DeSilva requested the status of a sewer hookup for Bolla Market on Route 17 North. Mrs. Ruccione stated that it has been determined that this establishment is slightly out of range of the main sewer; therefore, hookup is not mandatory. Bolla has decided to hire a septic engineer to design a new septic system, and Mrs. Ruccione has requested completion within 90 days. Mrs. Ruccione stated that there is a minimum \$1,000/day fine for non-compliance per the State Code.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the status of the clean-up at the Bolkema property on Mollie Court. Mrs. Ruccione reported that this site is approximately 10-acres housing various tenants. Most of the clean-up has been completed to her satisfaction. There is one area that still requires work, and Mr. Bolkema stated that he will notify the tenant.

Mr. Matysiak requested an update on a child who tested with an elevated blood lead level. Mrs. Behre reported that follow-up blood tests have revealed satisfactory lead levels. No follow-up is needed.

Mrs. DeSilva requested the nature of the Conditional rating at the Sheraton. Mrs. Ruccione stated that several sanitation violations were noted in the kitchen prep area and a thorough cleaning was required. These violations included two handwashing sinks that were leaking and failing to maintain adequate hot water temperatures, a new sanitation system needed to be installed over the three-compartment sink, several floor tiles were missing, and tiles in the cooking area were covered in grease. The racks in the refrigeration area also required a thorough cleaning. The clean-up and most of the repairs have been accomplished. Mrs. Ruccione will follow-up on the status of some additional flooring repairs.

There being no further questions or comment, the Health Activities Report for March 2022 was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2022

Moved by Mr. Matysiak and, seconded by Ms. Esty to accept the Health Officer's Report for March 2022.

Mrs. Behre was pleased to report that the Health Department hosted a successful Rabies Clinic on March 26th with over 204 dogs and cats receiving a vaccine. A follow-up meeting will take place to discuss ways we can tweak the clinic in the future.

In conjunction with a social worker from Valley Hospital, NWBRHC will host an in-service program via Zoom to Health Department and Senior Center staff to review services available via the State and County Social Service Departments. Information on Medicare/Medicaid, Hoarding, Mental Health resources etc. will be provided.

Mr. Matysiak noted the recent recall of milk products distributed to area schools throughout New Jersey and queried what symptoms were exhibited by exposed individuals. Mrs. Behre believed individuals experienced chemical reactions; however, she will research the specifics and forward this information. No serious injuries were reported.

Mrs. Behre recently proctored the Serv-Safe Food Managerial exam to both Mrs. Ruccione and Mr. Maas, and she was pleased to report that both inspectors passed with scores in the high 90's. Both are now eligible to take the exam to become Serv-Safe Instructors. Once this takes place we will be able to offer the Serv-Safe Managerial class and exam to our local retail food establishments. Having inspectors on staff with this skill set is a positive for our community and the relationships we have with our licensees.

Mrs. Varrato queried the cost of program to which Mrs. Behre stated that the fee would be approximately \$160-\$185 per individual for an 8-hour course. This course could be either one 8-hour session or two 4-hour sessions. The cost would include the lesson, handouts, book, review and test.

Mrs. Behre recently attended a Healthy Homes training session which provided information on how to keep families safe from common household safety hazards (i.e. pests, mold, lead, appliances, cleanliness, ventilation, natural cleaning products, toys etc.) She would like to put together a packet to give to inspectors to handout during any housing inspections.

There being no further questions or comment, the Health Officer's Report for March 2022 was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mrs. Varrato and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the bills for March 2022.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

As chairperson of the Public Information Committee, Mrs. Varrato would like to disseminate to the public information that was provided in the Healthy Homes Seminar attended by Mrs. Behre. She will reach out to Mrs. Campbell to determine the most effective way to distribute this to the public.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason was not present at the meeting but had forwarded to the Board Members the Hold Harmless Agreement between Mahwah Township and Eleventh-Hour Rescue regarding a potentially dangerous dog which was removed from the State.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence to present.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Cimis informed the Board that he will be moving out of Mahwah and will therefore need to resign his position on the Board of Health. He plans to attend the May meeting in order to affect a smooth transition. The Board Members expressed their appreciation for all his hard work and dedication and offered their well wishes as he embarks on a new life chapter.

Mr. Harris commended the Health Department staff for the quality of their work and their dedication during these tumultuous times in public health.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

No public present.

There being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm was made by Mr. Harris and, seconded by Ms. Esty and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2022, at the Mahwah Municipal Building beginning at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hagan

Kathryn Hagan
Recording Secretary