

BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

May 9, 2023

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 7:36 PM by Board of Health President, Adam Matysiak.

The Opening Statement was read according to the Sunshine Law.

PRESENT: Dr. Choi
Dr. DeMaria
Mrs. DeSilva
Ms. Esty
Mr. Matysiak

ABSENT: Mr. Harris
Mrs. Varatto

PROFESSIONALS: Mrs. Musella, NJDOH Health Officer Consultant
Mrs. Ruccione, Principal REHS
Mr. Mason, Board of Health Attorney
Mrs. Campbell, Administrative Secretary
Mrs. Hagan, Recording Secretary

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

No Report available at the time of this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 2023

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 2023.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR APRIL 2023

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Ms. Esty to approve the Health Activities Report of April 2023.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the nature of the dog-to-human bite noted on page 4 to which Mrs. Ruccione replied that notification was received from a local clinic stating that a Mahwah resident was treated for a

dog bite. Mrs. Ruccione contacted the victim who indicated that her dog was engaged in an incident with another dog and while attempting to separate the animals, she was bitten. The victim was unsure which dog had bitten her. She had no information about the other dog or the owner of the animal. She did provide proof of rabies vaccine for her own animal. Mrs. Ruccione informed the victim that she should quarantine her animal for 10 days.

Dr. DeMaria noted that when dogs are involved in such an altercation, it is not unusual for dogs to bite their owner if the owner intervenes. Dr. DeMaria reiterated that an individual does not need to immediately seek rabies prophylactic following a bite by an unknown animal. Rabies takes time to advance from the peripheral nervous system to the central nervous system to the brain and then enters the salivary glands. Dr. DeMaria stated that once it is present in the brain, it is generally too late to treat; however, the time from peripheral nervous system to the brain is longer than 10 days.

Mr. Matysiak concurred with Dr. DeMaria and also stated that after the ten-day waiting period, the rabies vaccine will be given along with immunoglobulin as the vaccine will take about 30 days to become effective. Immunoglobulin will provide immediate immunity allowing time for the vaccine to take effect.

Mr. Matysiak queried the outcome of the supervisory meeting to which Mrs. Ruccione stated that she was confident that she had clearly communicated her expectations of the inspectors. She will discuss the work that needs to be completed at the beginning of each week and follow-up at the end of the week to determine the staff's ability to stay on task. She feels the response was favorable.

Mr. Matysiak requested an update to the hoarding discussion which took place with key municipal stakeholders and the likelihood of establishing a task force to mitigate these complaints. Mrs. Ruccione will initiate communication with the Fort Lee Health Officer to better understand how Fort Lee's task force functions.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the installation of the water usage meter at Bolla 131 Route 17 North. Mrs. Ruccione stated that a summons will be issued by May 10th if Bolla does not comply. Mrs. Ruccione routinely inspects the property and has requested monthly statements indicating that the septic is being regularly pumped and maintained.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the location of The Plant Church to which Mrs. Hagan replied that this is a Christian church that is located in the former Holy Cross Lutheran Church building on Ramapo Valley Road and Glasgow Terrace.

Mrs. Campbell noted that the Revenue Report is off by \$750 due to monies that were refunded [i.e., a \$500 food license fee and a duplicate payment for a septic plan review and permit fee for \$250.]

Mrs. DeSilva queried the Conditional rating at Tavern 17. Mrs. Ruccione replied that this establishment is attached to the Doubletree Hotel and had been closed whilst the mold remediation of the hotel was in process. Mrs. Ruccione stated that much remediation was also completed in the kitchen. She inspected the establishment prior to reopening in December and found it Satisfactory at that time.

A follow-up inspection in April revealed several housekeeping issues to include a leaking three-compartment sink, unclean surfaces and cutting boards as well as a lack of test strips for the dishwasher. There was also a failure to have a Certified Food Manager on site. She will have our part-time inspector follow up. Mrs. Ruccione stated that the hotel will be removing the indoor pool with plans on establishing a gym facility.

Dr. Choi queried the number of restaurants within the Township to which Mrs. Ruccione replied there are 110 retail food establishments which she aims to inspect no less than 3 times per year.

Mrs. DeSilva suggested sending a copy of the Chapter 24 inspection sheet to the Board Members to better acquaint them with all aspects of a retail food inspection. Mrs. Campbell will follow up.

Mrs. Campbell recently attended a meeting in Administration regarding a new software program that the Township is considering purchasing. This new program would provide universal access to all Departments regarding any property, construction and/or zoning issues which are presented to the municipality. This will ensure that all Departments are kept abreast of what is going on, and work does not commence until all approvals are obtained.

Mrs. Ruccione noted the need for an electronic licensing program that would enable the inspectors to complete a Chapter 24 inspection form in the field via a tablet saving a substantial amount of time.

There being no further questions or comments, the Health Activities Report for April 2023 was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR APRIL 2023

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mrs. DeSilva, to accept the Health Officer's Report for April 2023.

Mrs. Musella and the Health Educator at NWBRHC attended a meeting with Mahwah's Director of Senior Services to discuss an upcoming Health Fair to be held in June. To coincide with the recent hoarding issues that have come to light, NWBRHC is also planning a program in July to discuss the process of downsizing your home.

While the pandemic has been officially declared to be over, contact tracing at Long Term Care facilities and childcare centers is ongoing.

Several years ago, the State enacted a program to provide public health priority funding to local health departments. Currently, BILL S2413 PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY FUNDING is scheduled for vote at 1:00 pm on May 11th in Trenton. Mrs. Musella asked that all Board Members and Health Department staff email Trenton requesting support of this Bill. Mr. Mason will forward a sample email to all.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the recipients of the NARCAN kits distributed by NWBRHC. Mrs. Musella replied that the kits were provided for free by Bergen County and 15 were brought to Mahwah for distribution to the Police Department and EMS.

Mrs. DeSilva queried whether NARCAN kits are available to the school nurses. Mrs. Musella will follow up. She stated that additional kits are available if necessary.

Mrs. Musella noted a recent program offered by the Mahwah Municipal Alliance (MMA) regarding the Fentanyl epidemic. Presentations were offered by both the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office and the DEA. Mrs. Hagan will inquire as to whether a video of this presentation is available. She encouraged all Board Members to sign up with the MMA to receive information regarding upcoming program offerings.

Mrs. Campbell will forward the NWBRHC Spring Newsletter to all Board Members.

There being no further questions or comments, the Health Officer's Report for April 2023 was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva, and seconded by Ms. Esty, and unanimously agreed by all to pay the bills for April 2023.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason is awaiting a draft of the revised fee ordinance and will forward comments at a future meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence to present.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Radon Awareness Program (RAP) Grant

Mr. Mason queried the process for obtaining the radon grant. Mrs. Ruccione stated that Mahwah's Grant Writer noticed the available program and offered to apply on behalf of Mahwah's Health Department. The \$2,000 Grant was quickly approved, and that money will be used to purchase 200 kits for distribution to Township residents. Township Council is expected to issue a Proclamation declaring June as Radon Protection Month. Availability of the kits will be advertised via the Township website, local newspapers, the Spring Newsletter, and flyers.

The Health Department will keep a log of residents who pick up a kit, and test results will be sent to both the homeowner and the Health Department. In order to receive reimbursement, all test results must be forwarded to the State Health Department. All costs associated with purchasing and testing are covered by the Grant monies. This Grant is renewable and may be applied for on an annual basis. Mrs. Campbell stated that the County offers radon test kits each January, and we inform the public that they may pick up a kit at the Bergen County Health Department. Offering the kits in Mahwah provides a more convenient opportunity for our residents.

Mrs. Ruccione has become aware of a \$5,000 grant available from the DEP which local Health Departments can use at their discretion. She would like to apply for these monies to assist residents with mitigating the cost of private well testing. New Jersey has high levels of uranium in well water and the testing is very expensive.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

No public present.

There being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm was made by Mrs. DeSilva, seconded by Ms. Esty and unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2023, and will be conducted in the Senior Center beginning at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hagan
Recording Secretary