

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
May 10, 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 7:04 PM by Board of Health President, Adam Matysiak.

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

PRESENT: Mr. George Cimis
Mrs. Wendy DeSilva
Ms. Patricia Esty
Mr. Adam Matysiak

ABSENT: Dr. DeMaria
Mr. Harris
Mrs. Varatto

PROFESSIONALS: Mrs. Donna Ruccione, Principle REHS
Mr. Daniel Maas, REHS
Mr. Jeffrey Mason, Board of Health Attorney
Mrs. Kathryn Hagan, Recording Secretary

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Not present. No report provided.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. Cimis to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 2022.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mr. Cimis and, seconded by Mrs. DeSilva to approve the Health Activities Report for April 2022.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the nature of the animal bites noted on Pg. 4. Mr. Maas stated that all five of the biting animals were dogs. One bite occurred at the Ramapo Brae community; however, the dog was not located. The victim completed the post-exposure treatment and is in good health.

Upon investigation of the animal-to-animal incident, it was determined that no bite occurred between the dogs; therefore, neither animal was quarantined.

Mr. Matysiak requested information pertaining to the Recall/Embargo notices to which Mr. Maas explained most of these recalls were due to product labels with undeclared allergens. The recalls are initiated through the FDA, and the New Jersey Department of Health will notify county and local health departments about those products which were available for distribution within the State.

Mr. Cimis requested feedback from Mr. Maas regarding the webinar entitled "Covid-19: From Pandemic to Endemic." Mr. Maas stated that at the time of the webinar, it was determined that Public Health Region 2 (New York/New Jersey) is still operating under pandemic conditions.

Mr. Matysiak requested details on the information provided during the Socials Services presentation hosted by NWBRHC. Mrs. Hagan noted that the staff was introduced to the numerous assistance programs offered by both the County and State Health Departments. Extensive details were provided regarding the Medicare/Medicaid process. Ali Duroy, Director of Mahwah's Senior Services, assists residents with navigating the websites and obtaining appropriate services.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR APRIL 2022

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Ms. Esty to accept the Health Officer's Report for April 2022.

Mr. Matysiak queried if any significant trends were noted in the population disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Mrs. Ruccione will request information from the Health Officer and provide feedback at the next regularly scheduled meeting. She noted that the Health Officer has been working closely with Mrs. Duroy in surveying our local senior population to determine any significant adverse effects experienced and to determine programs that can be offered to provide emotional and educational assistance.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the relevance of the Influenza Honor Roll. The staff will clarify what this means and report back to the Board.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Moved by Mr. Cimis and, seconded by Ms. Esty and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the bills for April 2022.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No Reports to Present.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason reviewed the Hold Harmless Agreement which was recently signed by the Township regarding a dog bite incident. He felt this Agreement covered all the areas of concern regarding liability upon the Board of Health and the Township. This case was unusual in that the bite occurred within the municipality; however, the Health Department was not notified until after the dog was relocated back to the shelter in Randolph, NJ. At this point, Mahwah no longer had any jurisdiction to declare the dog vicious.

This Agreement was unique in that it required banishment of the dog from Mahwah as opposed to euthanasia. Mr. Mason feels the Agreement was comprehensive and addressed the areas of concern noted. He believes that this type of Agreement can serve as a model for any future vicious animal bite incidents that may occur.

The Board Members opined that even with such an Agreement in place, there is no assurance that the Agreement will remain attached to the

animal from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Mr. Mason reiterated that the ultimate decision to establish such an Agreement is made by the Prosecutor. The Health Officer in the municipality where the animal is currently located has been informed of the conditions which must be imposed and will bear the responsibility of enforcement.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence to present.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Rabies Clinic change of date

The Health Officer and the Staff would like to host an additional rabies clinic on November 19, 2022, pending approval from the veterinarian, Tyco and Administration with the intent to hold future rabies clinics annually in November moving forward. By hosting a vaccine clinic at this time of year, dogs and cats will be eligible for licensing with the Township beginning on January 1st of each subsequent year. Mr. Maas stated that this would be another drive-thru clinic. Mrs. Ruccione also noted that the State will no longer provide the certificate books. Discussions are being held regarding online registration and/or having our own books printed. Mrs. Campbell will garner quotes for the cost of such.

Mrs. Hagan stated that it is important to inform the public that if their animal is due for a vaccine in January 2023, they should plan to come to the November clinic. This is a booster vaccine, and the animal will not be over-vaccinated. The Health Department would like to include this as an article in the Fall Newsletter and have information regarding the November clinic on the Township website.

b) Rabies Clinic giveaways

It was decided by the staff that in light of the recent plastic bag ban implemented by New Jersey, we will provide a give-away of biodegradable animal waste bags to all rabies clinic participants.

c) Board of Health Members certification class

Mrs. Hagan asked Mr. Mason to inform the newer Board Members of the authority the Board of Health has in establishing ordinances and its autonomous nature. Mr. Mason stated that this Board has the authority to enforce its own ordinances and to set policy with regard to public

health working within the parameters of the State guidelines. Unlike in other municipalities, approval from the Township Council is not necessary prior to establishing a Board of Health ordinance. Mrs. Ruccione stated that in reviewing Mahwah's current BOH Ordinances, she believes there are necessary updates to be considered.

Mrs. Ruccione queried whether the Board of Health could enact an ordinance providing the Health Department authority to request an animal be euthanized once it is deemed vicious. Mr. Mason will review the State Code and determine how this could be implemented.

Mrs. Mason suggested the staff meet to discuss those ordinances which need updating and present their thoughts to the Board of Health for discussion.

d) Pending retirement of Health Officer

The Health Officer has announced her retirement beginning September 1, 2022. Currently, Mahwah has a contract with NWBRHC for the services of a Health Officer through the end of the year. The Board would have the option to choose whether to continue fulfilling the Health Officer requirement through a regional health commission or considering shared services with another municipality.

Mr. Mason suggested that Mr. Matysiak work in collaboration with Mrs. Campbell to reach out to neighboring Boards of Health to determine any interest is sharing the services of a Health Officer.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

No public present.

There being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm was made by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Ms. Esty and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2022, at the Mahwah Municipal Building beginning at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hagan
Recording Secretary