

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
June 13, 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 7:35 PM by Board of Health President, Adam Matysiak.

The Opening Statement was read according to the Sunshine Law.

PRESENT: Dr. DeMaria
Ms. Esty
Mr. Harris
Mr. Matysiak

ABSENT: Dr. Choi
Mrs. DeSilva
Mrs. Varatto

PROFESSIONALS: Dr. Namitha Reddy, Health Officer
Mrs. Ruccione, Principal REHS
Mr. Mason, Board of Health Attorney
Mrs. Hagan, Recording Secretary

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

No Report available at the time of this meeting. Dr. Reddy will follow up with HARP and provide communicable disease numbers to the Health Department.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 2023

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mr. Harris and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the Meeting Minutes of May 2023.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR MAY 2023

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

Mrs. Ruccione noted that prior to opening any pools for the season, the Health Department must receive a satisfactory water sample; hence the quantity of reports noted. Nearly all pools were opened

by the end of May with the exception of Darlington Ridge which was awaiting a necessary repair due to a leak. The numerous unsatisfactory reports were due to pools that had a preliminary water sample taken prior to the pool being fully cleaned and ready for the season.

Mr. Matysiak queried the results of a discussion with the Ft. Lee Health Officer, Jill Scarpa, to discuss that municipality's hoarding task force. The task force combines the services of the Health Officer, Fire Code Official and a Social Worker. Ms. Scarpa indicated that the Social Worker is a key player in following up and establishing a positive rapport with the individual(s).

Through an acquaintance, Mrs. Ruccione has received the contact information for an individual who has been instrumental in coordinating a task force in Florida. Mrs. Ruccione will follow up and gather additional information.

Dr. Reddy noted that the health inspector can only note the lack of running water or unsanitary/unsafe living conditions which may cause a public health nuisance. A fire official can cite an individual for lack of egress, and any mental health issues would be handled by a social worker. Therefore, hoarding truly requires a multi-disciplinary approach.

Mrs. Ruccione stated that Bolla Market (131 Route 17 North) has installed a water meter as of May 5th. Water usage will be estimated based on a 3-month average through August 5th. The engineer will then submit a new septic plan to DEP prior to a permit being issued.

Mr. Mason queried the nature of the dog bites to which Mrs. Ruccione stated none were serious incidents requiring rabies prophylaxis. All bites were incurred by family members of the animals.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR MAY 2023

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mr. Harris, to accept the Health Officer's Report for May 2023.

Dr. Reddy informed the Board that Mrs. Musella's State-funded Grant has been extended, and she will continue to represent Mahwah as the Health Officer through the end of the year. She asked the Board to suggest any topics that they would like to have presented at a community program.

Mrs. Hagan commented that the Health Fair was extremely well attended, and many vendors commented on the large turnout. There was an abundance of information available from a variety of vendors to include home health services, assisted living facilities, estate planning services, etc. She noted that there are a number of programs offered by Bergen County for which residents can avail themselves. Dr. Reddy concurred stating that implementing links to these resources on the Health Department web page should be considered.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

There were no bills to present for the month of May.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason reviewed the proposed changes to the Fee Ordinance to be discussed during the Other Business portion of this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence to present.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Review of proposed changes to Retail Food Licenses

Mrs. Musella, Mrs. Ruccione and Mrs. Campbell collaborated to institute changes and updates to Mahwah's current licensing fees. Much discussion revolved around establishing a fair and equitable fee scale to incorporate both risk level and seating.

In Mr. Mason's review, he stated that one municipality implements a 25-percent surcharge based on square footage. Depending on the type of facility (i.e., event venue, catering hall, corporate cafeteria etc.) fees could scale upwards significantly.

Mrs. Ruccione also wishes to incorporate a fee for large retail food establishments such as distribution centers, banquet halls etc. She

would also like to have a separate fee for long-term care facilities and nursing homes.

Mrs. Ruccione will forward the Chapter 24 State inspection form to the Board Members for reference as well as definitions of Risk Levels.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

No public present.

There being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm was made by Dr. DeMaria, seconded by Ms. Esty and unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2023, and will be conducted in the Senior Center beginning at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hagan
Recording Secretary