

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
July 11, 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 7:32 PM by Board of Health President, Adam Matysiak.

The Opening Statement was read according to the Sunshine Law.

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

ABSENT: Dr. DeMaria
Mrs. Varatto

PROFESSIONALS: Mrs. Musella, Interim Health Officer
Mrs. Ruccione, Principal REHS
Mr. Mason, Board of Health Attorney
Mrs. Hagan, Recording Secretary

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

The Members reviewed the written report submitted by HARP. Mr. Matysiak queried whether there had been any reports of West Nile Virus to which Mrs. Ruccione replied negatively. Mrs. Ruccione stated that the County tests and sprays in areas with known mosquito pools and distributes a weekly report indicating how many positive mosquito pools have been treated. If permitted, she will forward this report to the Board Members.

Mrs. Ruccione will collaborate with Mrs. Campbell to post information on the Township website regarding residential mosquito control measures.

Dr. Choi queried the 43 positive Covid cases. Mrs. Musella replied that these are cases reported through a lab and do not include any home-based test results. Contact tracing is only conducted in vulnerable populations such as long-term care facilities and daycare centers.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 2023

Moved by Mr. Harris and, seconded by Ms. Esty and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2023.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR JUNE 2023

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the Health Activities Report of June 2023.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the tenant application for Good Vibrations Smoke Shop. Mrs. Ruccione stated that only legally permitted CBD products and vaping products will be sold. The Health Department will conduct an inspection upon opening to ensure proper signage and regular spot checks to ensure ongoing compliance.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the information garnered from the "Tick-borne Diseases" webinar hosted by NJDOH Communicable Disease Service. Mrs. Ruccione noted that there are several species of ticks carrying various diseases. Two of the most prevalent illnesses are Lyme Disease and Anaplasmosis. Both are carried by the deer tick and are treatable with antibiotics when caught early.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the progress on the septic system at 131 Route 17 North to which Mrs. Ruccione confirmed that a water-usage meter was installed on May 5th. A three-month average must be recorded in order to submit an acceptable design plan. She will continue to follow up to confirm continued maintenance of the existing system.

Mrs. DeSilva noted the two consecutive Conditional ratings issued to Aranwood Kennels. Mrs. Musella commented that there are several housekeeping issues needing attention before Tyco will deem the facility acceptable. Mrs. Musella and Mrs. Ruccione may conduct an in-person hearing with the new facility owner to assist with compliance. The current owner is housing a substantial number of dogs and is also breeding animals. The Health Department has received several complaints from neighboring residents regarding the barking of dogs, and there is concern regarding the lack of overnight staffing.

Mrs. Ruccione will further research the State Code regulating the operation of kennels. Mrs. Musella stated that each licensed kennel must have a communicable disease plan in place approved by a

veterinarian. She reiterated that the Health Department will continue to follow up with this facility to ensure that all requirements are being met.

Mr. Matysiak queried whether the Health Department is tracking Avian Flu via dead/ill bird sightings. Mrs. Ruccione replied that this practice has not been in effect for several years.

Mr. Harris queried the reasoning behind the frequent Spot Check inspections to which Mrs. Ruccione replied that the term "Spot Check" is used interchangeably by the inspectors. She would like a distinct category entitled "Follow Up Inspections." When a Routine inspection is conducted and only some minor issues are noted, a "Follow Up" would be conducted within a week checking on only the minor issues. A Spot Check is typically a random inspection which can take place at any time. No more than one "Follow Up" inspection should take place after a Satisfactory annual inspection. If an establishment requires multiple Follow Up inspections, then a Conditional rating should be issued and a re-inspection fee levied.

Mrs. DeSilva queried any actions being taken by the Township to control the deer population. Mrs. Ruccione noted that feeding wildlife contributes to the attracting of deer. She would like to include information in the Township newsletter and on the website reminding residents of the Ordinance prohibiting such activity on both private and public properties.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the Tenant Application for Mibelle Biochemistry located at 1200 MacArthur Boulevard. Mrs. Ruccione confirmed that Mibelle is a provider of cosmetic ingredients utilizing office space only at this location.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR JUNE 2023

A motion or second lacking, it was nevertheless unanimously agreed to by all present to accept the Health Officer's Report for June 2023.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No reports available.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason will follow up with Mrs. Musella and Mrs. Ruccione to update the current Board of Health Code.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence to present.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Final review and approval to changes to Board of Health Code

Mrs. Hagan queried the Board's desire to move forward with updating the current Board of Health Code so that a draft can be presented at the September meeting. All Board members are in agreement with proceeding as planned.

b) Discussion on viability of annual flu clinics

Mrs. Musella stated that NWRHC will not be placing its own order for the influenza vaccine, but will collaborate with Valley Health in supplying the vaccine for its clinics. Obtaining Medicare approval as a provider is a tedious process and has become more challenging for local health departments. The Board agreed that collaborating with HARP to order the vaccine and submit to Medicare is an alternative which should be explored. The clinic would continue to be held at the Mahwah Senior Center; however, HARP would be responsible for supplying the vaccine and Medicare billing. Mrs. Hagan stated that the majority of the seniors requested the more expensive high dose option. Mrs. Campbell can supply the cost difference to the Board Members; however, Mrs. Musella believed the high-dose vaccine to be twice as costly.

A suggestion was made to perhaps partner with CVS or Walgreens to conduct a clinic onsite. Mrs. DeSilva did not feel that this would be a viable option. Mrs. Bolan noted that foregoing a clinic altogether could generate much angst among the seniors when a rabies clinic is continuing to be held annually.

The Board opted to pursue the option of partnering with HARP to order the vaccine and submit to Medicare.

c) Spotted Lanternfly Remediation Grant

Mrs. Ruccione stated that the Health Department has received a \$15,000 Grant from the DEP to spray for Spotted Lanternflies, and she is in the process of obtaining three quotes from local pesticide companies. Mrs. DeSilva noted that there are several locations in Campgaw Reservation where she has observed lanternfly infestations. One is very close to the MEVO Farm, and she is concerned about the safety of spraying in this area. Mrs. Ruccione has inquired as to what chemical is being used. She noted that only a licensed arborist or pesticide applicator can spray trees for lanternflies.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

Jill Lieber-Cox, a resident of Island Road, introduced herself to the Board. She is a retired registered nurse and offered to volunteer her services to the Board. Regarding the lanternflies, Ms. Lieber-Cox noted that she has engaged the services of Viking Pest Control. Viking advised they will spray the ground within four feet of any trees. She has also reached out to the County regarding the ever-growing deer population.

Mrs. Musella suggested filming an interview with Carol Tyler of TYCO Animal Control to discuss the reasons why feeding wildlife is not prudent. Mrs. Bolan stated that this video could be shown on the Township Facebook page as well as the Mahwah Community News channel. Mrs. Bolan suggested reaching out to Councilwoman Paz and/or the MCN Chairperson.

There being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm was made by Mrs. DeSilva, seconded by Ms. Esty and unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2023, and will be conducted in the Senior Center beginning at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hagan
Recording Secretary