

FLORHAM PARK BOARD OF HEALTH

February 7, 2018

Minutes

Present: Michael Moore, Stanley Wisnewski, Sabrina Edmunds, Kathleen Greene, Tana LaPlaca and Peter Kleban

Also present: Thomas Michalowski, Gail Gratzel, Gina McConeghy and Maryann Lang

Absent: Raymond Holmes and Marianne Nucci

Mr. Moore, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Board of Health (BOH) Secretary, Maryann Lang, took roll call and stated that the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act had been met.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Wisnewski made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2017 meeting. Ms. LaPlaca seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Approval of Reports:

Mr. Moore asked if the strep throat outbreak at Holy Family School, noted in the November Pequannock Township report, could have been prevented or lessened. Ms. Gratzel responded that it isn't unusual to have this type of an outbreak when dealing with a large group of children. The public health nurses were aware of the outbreak. No further action was required.

Mr. Wisnewski asked if the canvass of commercial properties in Riverdale, noted in the November Pequannock Township report, could be done in Florham Park. Gina McConeghy, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, stated that she had conducted the same type of canvass in Florham Park. Only one property was referred to the Construction Official for further action, which was the gas station on the corner of Greenwood Avenue. There was no hot water in the restroom. Otherwise, she noted that the properties she visited were well maintained.

Ms. Greene asked if the pre and post test scores for the food handler class in October were correct, as they didn't change. Ms. Gratzel will look into it and get back to the Board.

Mr. Moore asked if the number of risk three food establishment re-inspections is a lot compared to the other towns that Pequannock provides health services to. Ms. Gratzel responded that Florham Park has a great deal more risk level three establishments than the other towns. She stated there is nothing out of the ordinary with the amount re-inspected.

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the reports which included: Registrar of Vital Statistics monthly report for November and December of 2017 and January of 2018; Florham Park Board of Health 2017 Year End Summary; Pequannock Township monthly report for October, November and December of 2017; Pequannock Township year-to-date report; and, Pequannock Township inspection activity report for Florham Park. Ms. LaPlaca seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Communications:

None

Report of the Health Officer:

Ms. Gratzel provided the report on behalf of Peter Correale, Health Officer for Florham Park. She advised the Board that there were flu outbreaks at the Primrose School, Kiddie Academy and Brighton Gardens. The public health nurses, and Regional Epidemiologist, met with officials at the two schools. Brighton Gardens is a newly reported case, there are no further details at this time. Kiddie Academy also had a gastrointestinal outbreak. The public health nurses and Regional Epidemiologist, met with school officials. The illness was identified as a norovirus. Recommendations were made to the school.

Ms. Edmunds asked if, in the cases of the flu outbreaks at the schools, the affected individuals had gotten the flu shot. Ms. Gratzel stated that she believed the flu shot was required in order to be enrolled at the schools. Discussion ensued about parents possibly requesting waivers of vaccination requirements.

Ms. Gratzel advised the Board that the County has begun their community health survey. The electronic survey is available through the Borough of Florham Park website and Facebook page. Results of the survey will assist the Health Department to plan for the future. A hard copy of the survey was provided to Board Members. Board Members commented on the long length of the survey, and whether that would discourage residents from completing the survey.

Mr. Wisniewski asked if anyone knew of possible candidates to fill the Second Alternate Board Member position. Mr. Moore stated that he knew of two individuals that might be interested. He will ask them to forward their resumes to the Board for review.

Mr. Wisniewski asked if the topic of legalization of marijuana has come up at Board of Health meetings in the other towns that Pequannock partners with. Ms. Gratzel responded that it has not. Providing education for young people was raised. It was pointed out that they may not know how much it takes to get drunk or high. By the time an individual feels the effects, they could have ingested a toxic amount of a substance.

New Business:

None

Unfinished Business:E-Cigarette Ordinance

Mr. Moore told the Board about a recent news article he read in the Daily Record. It was about a middle school, and the significant problem they were experiencing with “vaping”. Mr. Moore asked if anyone knew if there may be a vaping problem at Ridgedale Middle School. Mr. Kleban suggested contacting the school nurse. Mr. Moore asked Ms. Gratzel if the Health Department could reach out to the Principal, and/or school nurse, regarding an educational program for the students and parents. Ms. Gratzel said she will also reach out to Karen Blumenfeld, NJ Global Advisors on Smoke Free Policy (GASP), regarding a possible presentation. Mr. Wisniewski asked if middle school students can buy vaping products over the internet. The consensus among Board Members was that although you may need to be a certain age, there are ways around the system.

Mr. Wisniewski asked if there is less of a health risk for a young person to “vape” as opposed to smoke. Ms. LaPlaca responded that she has recently read studies that show an increased cancer risk linked to vaping. She will share the studies with the Board. The addictive component of “vaping” was also mentioned.

Questions were raised on how a licensing ordinance for e-cigarettes would be written. Mr. Michalowski, Council Liaison, responded that the Borough Attorney would handle this. He stated that a sample ordinance had already been drafted, and he would forward it to Board Members.

There was discussion among the Board regarding the pros and cons of high/low licensing fees for the sale of e-cigarettes. Licensing fees could be used to provide e-cigarette educational programs in Florham Park.

Unfinished Business:**E-Cigarette Ordinance:**

Board members felt it would be useful to know the scope of how many Florham Park businesses sell vaping products. Mr. Moore asked Ms. Gratzel to provide a list of businesses that sell tobacco in town, as they may also sell vaping products. He said he will visit the establishments. Ms. McConeghy stated that she could also make these visits. Ms. Edmunds asked if “vape shops” are allowed, by ordinance, in Florham Park. This will be looked into.

The Board decided to continue the discussion on the possible e-cigarette licensing ordinance at the next meeting.

Ratification of Licenses:

Ms. LaPlaca made a motion to ratify the licenses issued in December 2017 and January 2018. There were no licenses issued in November. Mr. Kleban seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Public Hearing - Privilege of the Floor:

Mr. Moore opened the meeting to the public at 8:15 pm. Seeing none, Mr. Moore closed the meeting to the public at 8:15 pm.

Adjournment:

Ms. Greene made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Ms. Edmunds seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryann Lang
Board of Health Secretary