

FLORHAM PARK BOARD OF HEALTH

November 10, 2020

Minutes

Present: Michael Moore, Stanley Wisnewski, Marianne Nucci, Sabrina Edmunds, Raymond Holmes, Peter Kleban, Kathi Greene and Jo-Anna Finegan

Also present: Kristen Santoro (Council Liaison), Gina McConeghy (Registered Environmental Health Specialist – REHS), Jean Vrablik (Public Health Nurse) and Maryann Lang (Board of Health Secretary)

Absent: Tana LaPlaca

This meeting was conducted virtually, through “Zoom”. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Ms. Lang took attendance, and stated that the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act had been met.

At this time, current Board of Health President, Michael Moore, handed the meeting over to the new Board of Health President, Peter Kleban.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2020 meeting. Ms. Edmunds seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Approval of Reports:

Ms. Nucci asked if the nineteen “other reportable diseases” listed in Pequannock Township’s October report, were all COVID 19 cases. Ms. Vrablik responded that the number included other diseases. Mr. Wisnewski asked if the COVID 19 cases could be listed separately. Ms. Vrablik responded that she would discuss this with Thomas Cantisano, Public Health Officer. Ms. Vrablik stated that the Morris County Health Department website has accurate up-to-date COVID 19 numbers.

Ms. Vrablik went on to advise the Board that COVID 19 seems to be progressing through different age groups. In March and April, long term care facilities were affected. In the summer, it was mostly people in their twenties. In August and September, it was college students. Now it is mostly K-12 students, and their families. Mr. Wisnewski asked if there were any cases of COVID 19 at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Ms. Vrablik responded that there have been cases reported. It was explained to Board members that although the university has a Madison address, most of the campus is located in Florham Park. Students that live on campus, who contract COVID 19, have their cases reported to the Florham Park Health Department. If they live off campus, in another town, it is reported to that town’s Health Department.

Mr. Wisnewski asked if there is a privacy issue with disclosure of COVID 19. Ms. Vrablik responded that COVID 19 falls under, “not protected under HIPAA communicable diseases”. She went on to state that when she and our other public health nurse, Susan DeGraw, conduct contact tracing, names are not provided. They just inform the person that “you have been identified as a close contact” and then provide quarantine dates. Mr. Wisnewski asked what the definition of “not protected communicable diseases is”. Ms. Vrablik stated that some examples are measles, mumps, rubella. She stated that details, and a reference guide, can be found online at the NJ Administrative Code, under Communicable Diseases.

Dr. Holmes asked who is Michelle D’s, listed as a complaint in the September Pequannock Township report. He stated we have a Kathi D’s, which is a hair salon. Ms. McConeghy confirmed that it should be Kathi D’s. The complaint of improper mask wearing was unfounded upon investigation.

Approval of Reports (continued):

Mr. Wisniewski noted that on the Pequannock Township year-to-date report, it shows seventy four licensed food establishments. He stated that he thought we had closer to one hundred establishments, and asked if we had lost businesses. Ms. McConeghy said she would check. He asked if all food inspections would be completed by year end. Ms. McConeghy responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the reports which included: Vital Statistics monthly report for September and October; Pequannock Township monthly report for August through October; Pequannock Township year-to-date report; and, Pequannock Township retail inspection activity report for August through October. Ms. Edmunds seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Communications:

None

Report from Health Department Staff:Ms. McConeghy:

Ms. McConeghy provided a corrected definition of DP. It stands for disposition pending: places are closed, but the Health Department is in contact with them. She also provided a brief update on what has been happening in Florham Park:

The Shakespeare Theatre had outside plays at their facility on Vreeland Road. There were "pods" for people to sit with their own chairs.

Dos Toros is now open.

Schools do not offer lunch for students.

Most of the commercial buildings are closed, or have limited usage, so there is no cafeteria service.

China Chalet had a conditional inspection. They were re-inspected after a week, and had a satisfactory rating.

Improper mask usage is the most common complaint reported to the Health Department.

New directives come from the State frequently. Sometimes, the directives are unclear. For example, tables can be closer than six feet inside of a restaurant with barriers. However, the type and size of barriers were not specified. Every Wednesday there is a meeting with the State. It is an opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification.

Ms. Santoro mentioned that the Park Savoy has been under scrutiny for noise complaints. With the new Executive Directive for establishments to close at 10:00 pm, will they be allowed to continue to serve past that time? Ms. McConeghy responded that she will find out.

Ms. Vrablik:

Ms. Finegan asked about the COVID 19 cases in November, and if they are following the trend of school children and families? Ms. Vrablik responded yes, it is more K-12 students and families.

Mr. Wisniewski asked if the local Health Department will be involved in distributing vaccinations. Ms. Vrablik responded that Mr. Cantisano is involved with this. Distribution will most likely be on a county level. The Pfizer vaccine has to be kept at -80 Celsius. It will be distributed in specially packaged devices, that will be able to maintain the temperature for two weeks. There will be 1,000 doses in each batch. All municipalities will probably supply personnel and supplies. She stated that high risk individuals will probably receive the first batch of vaccinations, as well as first responders, essential personnel, and long term care residents. The general population will not be in the first wave of vaccinations.

Report from Health Department Staff (continued):

Mr. Wisnewski asked if the Board of Health can be kept up-to-date on this, as they often receive questions from residents. Ms. Vrablik responded that Mr. Cantisano will keep everyone informed, as he has been doing throughout the pandemic. Ms. Santoro asked if the 80,000 doses a day, mentioned by Governor Murphy, can be carried out. Ms. Vrablik responded that she doesn't know. Ms. Greene stated that she has worked in this field, and she doesn't feel it is possible.

Ms. Santoro asked if the vaccination would be made mandatory. Ms. Vrablik responded that she did not know. She said it might be possible that certain employers could mandate it.

Mr. Wisnewski asked Ms. Lang if the pet renewals would be done by mail for 2021. Ms. Lang responded that renewals are usually conducted by mail. They will be mailed during the first week of December. If a resident has an urgent need for a dog license, they can contact the Health Department. Arrangements would be made to meet outside, as the building is not open to the public. Ms. Lang advised the Board that approximately twenty tickets went out for pets that were unlicensed for 2020.

New Business:**Nomination of New Board Secretary:**

This individual will fill in for the President, Peter Kleban, if he is absent for a meeting. Mr. Moore nominated Jo-Anna Finegan; Ms. Greene seconded, and all others approved. Ms. Lang said she will need to confirm that an alternate Board member can serve in this position. Mr. Moore said that Mr. Michalowski, new Board member as of 2021, could be an alternative. If needed, this can be revisited in February 2021. Ms. Wisnewski stated that he could fill in if need be. He also stated that he didn't think there was a distinction between members, and alternates, for this position.

Proposed meeting dates for 2021:

February 10, April 14, June 9, September 8, November 10 – all at 7:00 pm. There were no objections to the dates.

Unfinished Business:**Resignation of J. Michael Moore from Board of Health and transition to Peter Kleban as the new Board President:**

This has all been finalized, and Mr. Kleban chaired this meeting.

Addition of Thomas Michalowski to Board of Health:

Mr. Kleban asked if Mr. Michalowski will need to be sworn in. Yes, he must be sworn in. This usually happens at the reorganization meeting in January. At the present time, it isn't known if the meeting will be held virtually. Ms. Santoro stated they will know more after the December Council meeting.

Ratification of Licenses:

The Board ratified licenses issued in September and October

Public Hearing - Privilege of the Floor:

Mr. Kleban opened the meeting to the public at 7:55 pm. With no public present virtually, Mr. Kleban closed the meeting to the public at 7:55 pm.

Adjournment:

Ms. Greene made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Ms. Edmunds seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryann Lang
Board of Health Secretary