

## FLORHAM PARK BOARD OF HEALTH

September 9, 2020

### Minutes

**Present:** Michael Moore, Stanley Wisnewski, Marianne Nucci, Tana LaPlaca, Raymond Holmes, Peter Kleban and Jo-Anna Finegan

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

**Absent:** Sabrina Edmunds and Kathleen Solar-Greene

This meeting was conducted virtually, through “Zoom”. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Dr. Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2020 meeting. Mr. Kleban seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

#### **Approval of Reports:**

Mr. Wisnewski asked what “DP” stands for on the food inspection reports. Ms. McConeghy stated that it stands for “discretionary provisional”. In the beginning of the pandemic, inspections were done virtually. Inspectors checked to see how establishments were serving the public, such as changes in menu, if they were providing takeout, etc. Mr. Wisnewski asked if inspections are being conducted in person, now that we have modified indoor dining. Ms. McConeghy responded that they have been conducting in person inspections for several months.

Ms. Santoro asked about the discrepancy, in numbers, between the “deaths in Florham Park”, and “causes of deaths of Florham Park residents”, on the vital statistics reports. Ms. Lang responded that the deaths in Florham Park represent those deaths that occurred in Florham Park. The causes of deaths, for Florham Park residents, may include deaths of residents that occurred outside of Florham Park, at local hospitals. Therefore, the numbers won’t be the same.

Mr. Moore asked which State regulations does the Health Department track. Mr. Cantisano responded that there are three different sets of regulations:

- Normal regulations are ones that establishments are required to conform to. These are the routine inspections that a local Health Department would handle, and these have been conducted.
- Executive Orders issued by the Governor, of which there are approximately 70-80 related to the pandemic. The local Health Department will contact businesses regarding violations and educate them. Enforcement is through the local Police Department and Attorney General’s office.
- Executive Directives issued by the New Jersey Commissioner of Health. The local Health Department conducts spot checks of businesses. Enforcement is through the local Health Department.

Mr. Cantisano stated that he has daily conference calls with the State of New Jersey. It has been a complex operation, but has been working well.

Ms. Finegan asked about the norovirus cases at Brighton Gardens Assisted Living, reported in the January Pequannock Township report. Ms. Vrablik responded that the facility had back-to-back outbreaks. Ms. Finegan asked if the outbreaks were due to improper procedures at the facility. Ms. Vrablik stated that she, and Ms. McConeghy, visited multiple times and reviewed proper procedures multiple times. There is a new Executive Director, named Victoria, and things have improved considerably since her arrival in August.

**Approval of Reports (continued):**

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the reports which included: Vital Statistics monthly report for February through August; Pequannock Township monthly report for January through July; Pequannock Township year-to-date report; and, Pequannock Township retail inspection report for January through July. Dr. Holmes seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

**Communications:**Application to keep hens from M. Mink

Ms. Lang stated that the Health Department received an application to keep hens from Megan Mink, 109 Beechwood Road. The process is to forward requests to the Zoning Officer, to determine if the applicant has the required lot size to accommodate the hens. Ms. Mink's application was denied due to insufficient lot size. Therefore, there was no need to bring the matter before the Board of Health.

**Report from Health Department Staff:**Mr. Cantisano:

Mr. Cantisano stated that he came on board, on March 9, the day the emergency was declared. He stated that he has twenty five years of experience with the Township of Wayne. His experience is in Public Health and Emergency Management, which has been helpful during the current health crisis. Former Health Officer, Peter Correale, has been available to provide assistance. Mr. Cantisano stated that everyone he has worked with in Florham Park, has been stellar. He stated that the staff in Pequannock are outstanding, seasoned professionals. Mr. Moore commented that this is the most serious public health issue that he has seen during his time on the Board. He stated that Mr. Cantisano has done an outstanding job of keeping the Board informed, and thanked the Health Department for their efforts.

Ms. Vrablik:

Ms. Vrablik, provided an overview of COVID 19 activity in Florham Park. She stated that specific numbers are provided in the monthly reports. At the present time, there is very low activity throughout Florham Park. She stated that the Health Department has been managing community outbreak cases. The staff was busy monitoring the four assisted living facilities in town, as there was a lot of activity. The Health Department had daily communication, seven days a week, with these facilities. All facilities are now conducting weekly COVID 19 testing of staff. Currently, the outbreak has concluded in Florham Park facilities. Mr. Moore asked about a secondary outbreak of COVID 19 in July, at Brighton Gardens. Ms. Vrablik responded that this wasn't really an outbreak, but more a result of increased testing. In order to allow residents to have visitors, increased testing was needed. She said they are seeing asymptomatic positives at this time. Mr. Moore asked if the Health Department is now comfortable with the situation at Brighton Gardens. Ms. Vrablik stated that things are much better, and she has confidence in the new Director. Mr. Wisnewski asked Ms. Vrablik to pass on to the Director, that the Board members are happy with the progress at the facility.

Ms. Vrablik stated that the staff monitored COVID 19 at the JETS facility. They were in communication with the Infection Control Officer of the JETS. She stated that the JETS have an elaborate protocol for testing of players and staff.

Ms. Vrablik stated that the staff was also busy with monitoring the two colleges in Florham Park. She stated that college students seem to be a source of a lot of the activity throughout the country. Incidences of COVID 19 are reported to the Health Department where the college student permanently resides. Initial contact is made to the student through the local Health Department. Follow up is conducted by the College Student Health Office and Student Housing, where the student attends college.

Ms. McConeghy:

Ms. McConeghy advised the Board that a Food Handler Class was finally held for China Chalet, Kyoto and Hunan Wok. She stated that there has been great improvement. She will continue to "spot check" these businesses, in addition to their regular inspections.

**Report from Health Department Staff (continued):**

Ms. McConeghy stated that the Summer Camps in Florham Park did a great job conducting the camps during the pandemic. They had COVID 19 plans. Pre-operational and operational inspections were conducted. The various camps stated that they learned a lot, and will implement these practices in the future.

The various pools in town opened, and did a good job with everything as well.

Ms. McConeghy stated that there are still issues that are being addressed at Brighton Gardens. She walked through the facility, with the new Director, and made suggestions for improvement. A maintenance team has been brought in. She will return to check on the progress.

**New Business:****Board of Health Vacancy:**

Mr. Moore formally announced that he will be moving to Atlanta, probably by November. He stated that he will turn in his resignation, once he knows when the move will take place. He has talked to Tom Michalowski, former Council Liaison to the Board, about returning to the Board as a member. He felt it would be good to have an experienced member fill the vacancy. He asked the other Board Members for their thoughts. All members were in favor of Mr. Michalowski filling the vacancy. He also discussed the need for a new President. He said he has discussed this with Mr. Kleban, as he is currently "second in command" as the Secretary. Mr. Kleban has agreed to take over. Ms. Lang stated that Mr. Kleban needed to be formally nominated, and a roll call vote taken. Jo-Anna Finegan made a motion to nominate Mr. Kleban as President, Ms. Nucci seconded the motion. All members present voted "yes" with a roll call vote.

Mr. Wisniewski reminded the Board that the Secretary position must now be filled. The Secretary fills in for the President, during an absence. Mr. Kleban felt a Board member should be nominated, and voted on, at the November meeting. Mr. Moore asked Ms. Lang to place this matter on the November meeting agenda.

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**Ratification of Licenses:**

The Board ratified licenses issued in February, March (none issued), April, May (none issued), June (none issued), July and August (none issued).

**Public Hearing - Privilege of the Floor:**

Mr. Moore opened the meeting to the public at 7:44 pm. With no public present virtually, Mr. Moore closed the meeting to the public at 7:44 pm.

**Adjournment:**

Ms. LaPlaca made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Mr. Moore seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maryann Lang  
Board of Health Secretary