

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Board of Health held on May 9, 2012 at 7:30 PM, in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 531 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, New Jersey.

The following were present: Mrs. Peg Dugan
Mrs. Catherine Marshall
Mrs. Pam Nelson
Mr. Larry Ripley
Dr. Dario Fenimore

Attending: Mr. Ben Samara, Sanitarian
Mr. Frank Mangravite, Council Liaison
Ms. Meredith Petrillo, Animal Control Officer

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Dugan at 7:33 PM. Mrs. Dugan stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, “Open Public Meetings Act.”

Mrs. Dugan welcomed Meredith Petrillo, and noted that she has been our Animal Control Officer for the past 1 ½ years. Each Board member was then introduced to Meredith. Meredith explained that she has been an Animal Control Officer since 1990. She began her career with the SPCA. In 2003 she became a Certified Animal Cruelty Officer. She is now employed by Denville. She services both Denville and Morris Plains. She assured that Board that she responds within 20 minutes after receiving a call from either town. Most of her calls are for domestic animals. But she must educate the public on the fox, coyote and bear population in our county. She feels that our police department is extremely helpful and willing to learn about this wildlife they may be encountering. There have been almost no dog bites within the past year.

Last year there were 52 calls regarding cats but none so far this year in Morris Plains. She noted that there is currently an injured swan in the pond by Johnson Road. The swan has a broken wing. She is watching it and may have to conduct a rescue soon.

Mrs. Marshall asked if Meredith has any literature for our residents. She agreed to send us anything she has. Mr. Ripley asked if training exists for our police officers. She explained that there is training to prevent dog bites. Mrs. Dugan plans to mention to the Police Chief how pleased the Board is with Meredith and how well she works with his force.

Meredith was very impressed with our Rabies Clinic in January. She noted that 98% of the dogs that they pick up are claimed by their owners. This amounted to 12 or 13 animals. Meredith does have a part-time assistant. Meredith plans to visit the Board at least once a year. She explained that some of the dog licensing money is allocated to her department to buy new equipment, such as traps, as needed. The final question from the Board had to do with when the renewal of the Animal Control Contract is due. Meredith noted that it will come due at the end of December.

The entire Board thanked Meredith for coming and for enlightening the Board on her services to Morris Plains.

Approval of Minutes – Dr. Fenimore made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 11, 2012, as circulated. Mr. Ripley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Correspondence

Morris Plains School District asking for an inspection of the school cafeterias. Ben Samara assured the Board that he has already conducted these inspections. He informed the Board that Mountain Way School is now going to prepare lunches in a limited capacity.

Letter from NALBOH regarding shared school dental programs to promote oral health. Mrs. Dugan turned this correspondence over to Dr. Fenimore for his input. He is not aware of our schools conducting dental checks in recent years. Mrs. Dugan knew of a clinic at the hospital.

Sanitarian's Report – Mr. Samara reported on the following establishments:

Bretton Woods, Lovey's, Little League Stand, Friendly's and Aji Sushi all received a Satisfactory. Dunkin Donuts is checked once a week for the vinegar flies and seems to be eradicating the problem. Coco Pazzo has cleaned out all of the trash. But there are still 1 ½ drums of old cooking oil on the premises. Ben has been to court over them. The owner claims to have a serious illness in the family, which prevented him from finishing up the cleanup. Ben is hopeful that it will be cleaned up before next week's court date.

Ben is checking into an old shed behind Conroy's Florist. The wood is rotted and the roof is in danger of caving in. The florist claims it is the landlord's responsibility and vice versa. Ben has notified the landlord that it must be repaired or removed. Ben believes that a carpenter is working on it.

Ben is planning to do a final inspection of Smash Burger for their opening on Mon., May 14.

The new restaurant Fresh Tortillas hopes to be ready for an inspection this week but Ben is almost positive that they still have too much work to finish to make that deadline.

Ben concluded his report with the announcement that our Health Administrator, James Norgalis, is leaving Madison to take a position in Arizona.

Council News – Mr. Mangravite asked Dr. Fenimore's opinion on fluoridating the water. His opinion was that there are no adverse effects. But since we share our water supply with 13 communities, it would be difficult to come up with an agreement with all 13 towns. Mr. Mangravite noted that only 22% of NJ towns fluoridate their water. Not one of these towns is in Morris County. It was concluded that people can receive the needed fluoride in their toothpaste and from their dentist.

Talks will begin in June on contract negotiations. Presentations will be made by Madison and other interested providers.

Mrs. Dugan noted that she has been in touch with Morristown Medical Center regarding possible new services for our Wellness Day. These include a total body dermatology screening and a body scan for cardiac risk. She is checking on the availability of such testing. When Board members questioned why the number of participants seems to be declining, it was concluded that most people have their own doctors and the retired population utilizes Medicare. Madison assured us that it is happening in every community. Dr. Fenimore made the suggestion of a questionnaire in Plains Talk that asks the residents what they would like added to the Wellness Day. The Board agreed. Mrs. Dugan feels that offering the flu shots on the same day is a wonderful incentive to participate in the Wellness Day.

New Business – Mrs. Dugan informed that Board that Madison’s Board of Health President, John Hoover will be present at our June 13 meeting.

There being no further business, Mrs. Nelson moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mrs. Marshall. Voice vote. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Carole J. Howell
Secretary