

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Board of Health, held on April 10, 2013 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 531 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, New Jersey.

The following members were present:

Present: Mrs. Peg Dugan
Mrs. Catherine Marshall
Mrs. Pam Nelson
Dr. Dario Fenimore

Attending: Mr. John McDermott, Environmental Health Specialist
Mr. Frank Mangravite, Council Liaison

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Dugan at 7:35 PM. She 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."

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Marshall made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 13, 2013, as circulated. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion. Mrs. Dugan abstained. All of the remaining members were in favor.

Environmental Health Specialist's Report

Mr. McDermott began by reporting that Carlos Perez is in the process of scheduling Food Handlers' classes for mid June. The exact dates and times will be sent to all food establishments in Morris Plains for registration. It is not a mandated course but would be extremely helpful to anyone attending.

He then filled the Board in on the upcoming Pea Pod that is coming to Stop N Shop in the near future. It fills a need for pre-ordered groceries that are picked up at this pod outside the store. The customer's order is placed on-line. The items ordered will come from a Stop N Shop located in Wanaque. They use freezer bags and place them in the refrigerated pod. The customer then goes to our Stop N Shop to pick up their order from the pea pod. They have a projected opening date of mid May and will be inspected by John at that time.

John inspected the Little League refreshment stand and had some plumbing concerns. The hot water that goes to the kitchen is too hot. And the bathrooms have no hot water. The push tap on the sink does not stay on long enough. It needs to be on for 15 seconds. Since these sinks are used by the food handlers, hot water is a necessity. The Board was in total agreement. Mrs. Dugan decided that a letter of recommendation to the Borough would be the appropriate channel to follow. Mr. Mangravite offered to take the matter to Councilwoman Laurie Fu.

Mr. McDermott noted that the pools have all received their checklist from Carlos Perez.

Mr. McDermott mentioned that the roof has been repaired on Primavera's.

The nurses reports show that all of the schools are in compliance with immunizations. He directed the Board to see his report regarding Communicable Disease surveillance. He did mention that there were 3 cases of Lyme Disease.

John did issue a Conditional to a café for a lack of sanitation. They were not sanitizing areas after washing them. He also followed up on a complaint of employees at an eatery that were rinsing utensils after they came out of the dishwasher, dipping them in soda water and drying them. This was a common practice in past years but they agreed to dispense with it, on John's recommendation. There was also a report of a food borne illness from sushi. But only one customer reported being ill. Since this eatery had just been inspected 2 or 3 days before, it was surprising and baffling to John. He noted that this type of bacteria causes 10% of the diarrhea viruses in our country that are linked to raw chicken. John also inspected the basement of a convenience store. The basement is no longer used but he did find rodent remains. There were a great number of old shelves and peg boards that were blocking the floor from Health Inspectors or Pest Control.

Mr. Mangravite asked if the establishments must open their grease traps for an inspector. He explained that they do not mandate this. Some towns let their public works department handle these grease traps. But we have our inspectors do it. Our previous inspectors stirred the trap with a stick. He explained that Carlos Perez is in contact with a woman in Woodbridge who is tops in the state in this field. John noted that he does ask for documentation from the establishments. The dilemma is that opening a grease trap during business hours would release a terrible smell and would not be good for anyone's business. He offered to speak to Carlos about possibly going in early in the morning before any customers could be in the restaurants.

Mr. Mangravite asked what the fine was for a reinspection, due to a Conditional, and was told that it is currently \$240. John explained that the restaurant that was dipping the utensils did not receive any fine because it was simply a matter of educating them on the safest practices. Mrs. Dugan noted that she feels that our attorney, Gail Fraser, clarified the issue of issuing fines to the Board's satisfaction. Dr. Fenimore stated his opinion that an establishment should only be fined when they fail an inspection – not when a complaint is levied. These complaints cannot be substantiated much of the time. When John mentioned a problem with a pet shop, Mr. Mangravite felt they should have been fined. But the Board agreed with John that the problem was related to the landlord, rather than the tenant.

The question of changing the ordinance that deals with fining establishments was then brought up. Mrs. Marshall felt that it is effective as it currently reads and should be left alone. Mrs. Dugan agreed. She noted that there is a huge difference between some loose tiles and public safety. She would like to revisit the issue toward the end of the year. Mrs. Marshall noted that the Board is very pleased with what the County is doing and appreciates their support.

Mrs. Marshall then asked Mr. McDermott what he thinks the Board can do to promote attendance at the Food Handler's seminar. He feels that the Board can refer to the statute that states that employees must be educated in food handling (Ch. 24). He feels that it should be stressed that there is no fee for attendance and it is being promoted by the Board of Health. Mrs. Dugan pointed out to the Board that all members would be welcome to attend, if room allows. This would count toward the new mandatory education requirements for Board Members.

Mr. McDermott noted that all 3 pools will be inspected before opening day. There was no Animal Control Report from Meredith Petrillo. She has been inundated with rabid animal bites.

Carlos Perez is working on the Emergency Management Plan and meetings will be set up in the near future.

New Business

Mrs. Dugan noted that Cindie Bella will begin the onsite nursing for Borough residents on May 13. She plans to be in the Borough on the second and fourth Monday of each month, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. She will utilize the last conference room on the left. There will be a locked file cabinet. Internet will only be available through the office. Medical records will be hand written. The Board will advertise this nursing service through the web site and Plains Talk. Cindie will also be introduced to the seniors through the Health Bones program and the Rotary. The Board feels that Cindie is very knowledgeable and will be a wonderful asset to the Borough.

Mrs. Dugan then mentioned smoke free parks. She is not sure that the Borough needs to regulate this. Since there was no resistance to the banners that requested no smoking, it seems to be working.

Wellness Day – The Date has been set for October 19. We plan to continue the male and female cancer screening but are unsure if they will remain exactly the same. There are 3 options:

- 1) Keep them exactly the same.
- 2) Use an Urgent Care Center with our physician
- 3) Use St. Clare's Hospital

The Board is planning to have vendors in the gym that are all related to the health field. Flu shots will be given that day. The Board decided on the first date for flu shots as October 2, from 12 – 3 PM. Carole will contact Phil Forbes for the availability of Community Park.

There are 3 families that utilize the children's conferences. They take place at the Zufall Clinic in Morristown and Dover. Carlos is currently meeting with them to set things up.

Publicity

Mr. Mangravite noted that since we have our own web page, things like measles updates and numerous other topics can be posted there. This will have to be coordinated between Arlene Stroller and George Ross.

Council News – Mr. Mangravite showed the Board the new budget. He talked about the Pfizer property. They have begun removing asbestos. The taller building should be demolished by July.

There being no further business, Mrs. Marshall moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Dr. Fenimore. Voice vote. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Carole J. Howell
Secretary