
**BOROUGH OF SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS
BOARD OF HEALTH**

MINUTES

OF

April 16, 2015

SILENT REFLECTION AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL: 7:30 P.M.

CHAIRPERSON	LEONARD GILES - Present
VICE CHAIRPERSON	VICKI HANLON - Present
MEMBERS	KATHRYN MOLOUGHNEY - Present PATRICIA SKUBON - Present
HEALTH INSPECTOR	MIKE KOWAL
SECRETARY	MARY ELLEN KARAMUS

2. THIS MEETING IS CALLED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW. NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS POSTED ON THE BOROUGH OF SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS WEBSITE AND ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

3. MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA:

- Motion made by Board Member Hanlon; all present in agreement

3. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF:

- November 6, 2014 – Minutes were mistakenly not included in packet; therefore November 6, 2014 minutes will be put into next meeting packet. (October 1,2015 meeting)

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Chairman Giles commented on the Commission's continuing education participation by the Health Officer, Mike and Commission employees. He commented that the Commission is seeking further accreditation and that it is a 2 to 5 year process by the Health Department and that the Health Department is seeking to run at "maximum efficiency" which will have a positive impact on the Commission and on communities. It will help with securing grant funding and ensure that the Commission is working well and shows that the Commission wants to be a shining light in its field.
- Chairman Giles commented on the budget process. It has been approved. Our increase is 1.1 percent. Chairman Giles added that the Commission is very mindful of their numbers and that they do strive to give us a good deal. If we were to go to the other options, which are to have our own health department or, more realistically, the County Health Department, if we went to the County, the health tax for Spring Lake Heights would be almost \$10,000 more than what we are paying; therefore Chairman Giles pointed out that not only is the Commission a good deal for us but that they are very responsive and reliable.
- Chairman Giles asked if the Borough is aware of the new food handling fees. Board Secretary responded yes.
- Chairman Giles requested permission from the Mayor and Council for the Board to join the NJ Local Boards of Health. Board Secretary responded we do have the funds to do that.
- Chairman Giles asked Mike Kowal if anything was going on in town. Mike responded a resident on Allaire Road contacted the Health Commission in March. She was concerned about the White Swan Cleaners' contamination site, originally on the circle on 35 by the outlet mall. It was found that there was a contaminated well on that site in the past. Mike stated that they figure that the contaminant was from a dry cleaning chemical, tetrachloroethylene, which was not disposed of properly which led to ground water contamination; therefore, a Super Fund site resulted. Board Member Skubon asked how long ago that happened. Mike responded probably 20 years ago. This woman was concerned about her irrigation

system which she uses, among other things, to water her plants. Mike stated that is not a good idea. It is not a potable water source which is tested for contaminants. There could be contaminants in there. Mike gave her EPA information and she was relieved once she found out her well was nowhere near the contamination site and probably not contaminated with this particular chemical. Board Member Skubon mentioned the size of the site. Board Member Moloughney asked why the issue is still being discussed and is it not resolved. Mike explained that there are many stages to the clean-up including involvement by the Federal Government, Congressional approval and many steps that take many years of monitoring.

- Mike commented that the co-op kitchen on Essex Avenue has been pretty productive. Some good businesses are in there now. Fit Food is the newest business. Board Member Moloughney inquired where the building was in Spring Lake Heights. Mike explained that it is on Essex Avenue and 71 by Doolan's.
- He also mentioned the new irrigation system put in at the school property. Board Member Moloughney stated it was still being installed as of the time of the meeting.
- Sea Breeze Deli is under new ownership and going under a well-needed renovation. Mike indicated that he had done pre-inspections and believed the business would be open shortly after the Board of Health meeting date. Chairman Giles asked about the renovations being done. Mike explained what had been done and indicated that it was going to be basically the same type of business as it had been.
- Mike mentioned a review of the flu clinics was going to be undertaken regarding the decline in numbers. Pharmacies were mentioned as part of the reason for the decline. Pharmacies are doing other screenings as well. Also, supply and demand is dependent on the strain of flu circulating. In prior years, the efficacy of the vaccine was not very good so people may feel the vaccine is not needed, which does not help the stats for the Commission. Ideas are being discussed, such as a partnership with maybe Meridian or one of the other hospitals so they can incorporate something with the

mobile units to help get the flu vaccine along with some screening such as blood pressure or bone density or vascular testing which may help the number of vaccines provided. Mike mentioned that Fairway Mews here in the Borough has always been a good clinic for the Commission. Chairman Giles asked how much the Commission charges compared to pharmacies. Mike did not know what pharmacies charge but he believed \$25 was charged last year for the Commission vaccine. He feels that the pharmacies are in the same area in terms of cost.

- Chairman Giles also asked how long it takes to do an immunization audit. Mike Kowal said it depends on the population size of a school, and that, for example, a small day care with fewer students may take a half hour and a larger school can take three hours. Chairman Giles asked if nurses hand the file to Mike or does the Commission pull the files? Board Member Hanlon said they give them all of the files. She also stated that with Pre-K and Kindergarten, sometimes parents get behind on their immunizations and then need to be checked and 6th grade are checked because Tdap and meningitis are needed at that age so all of those are checked. Mike said if the nurses are organized, it makes the Commission's job very easy but some private schools and pre-schools are a different situation where they don't want to pull anyone out of school and are not as eager to have the audit conducted. Mike mentioned that the measles outbreak is continuing across the country and that the CDC is trying to battle exemption rules, but since religion is involved, that is something that is never going to be taken away. It was mentioned that in California where they have the most exemptions, they are trying to get rid of the religious exemption. Board Member Hanlon said anyone can claim a religious exemption as long as they write a letter saying it is against their religion, and the school just has to take it and put it in the student's record and then immunizations are no longer necessary, but if there is an outbreak, they would be excused from school, whether flu, chicken pox, etc. Mike said during audits, exemptions are written down so the nurse and he have a copy of it so if there is an outbreak, students are excused from school.

- Chairman Giles asked if there was anything further. Board Member Skubon asked on the activity report on February 6th where it says Nature's Corner food poisoning, what was that about. Mike said it was a disgruntled ex-employee who was let go who made a complaint, and that that does happen a lot.

- Chairman Giles asked if the Town would be sending former Board Member Doris McKeown a letter of appreciation. Board Secretary said if the Board recommended to the Council that they wished to acknowledge Doris, of course, they would.

- Chairman Giles asked if there was anything further. Vicki asked about if the heroin presentation was attended by Chairman Giles. She could not remember if it was offered by a Nurses' association or if it was Health Commission-related. She wanted to attend something about the heroin epidemic in the area. Kate said Manasquan schools did something in the beginning of last year. Chairman Giles mentioned how bad the problem is in Toms River. Mike mentioned the availability of the drugs is a problem. He indicated the addiction epidemic seems to begin with prescription drugs and then it becomes an addiction issue. Board Member Hanlon asked if we still have the disposal for the prescription meds in the building. It was noted that we do and that it is very active.

5. COMMUNICATIONS:

- October Health Officer Report
- November Health Officer Report
- SLH Activity Report – 11/1/14 to 12/26/14
- December 2014 MCRHC #1 Food Establishment Ordinance 14-01 and listing of Spring Lake Heights Food Establishments
- MCRHC #1 2015 Winter Newsletter
- February Health Officer Report
- Activity report 11/1/2014 to 02/20/15
- March Health Officer Report
- Activity Report 02/06/15 to 03/16/15
- New Jersey Local Boards of Health Membership

6. VOICE OF THE PUBLIC

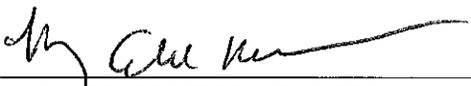
7. VOICE CLOSED BY / AT : PM

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

9. NEW BUSINESS:

10. ADJOURNMENT:

ON MOTION BY: Board Member Hanlon; Seconded by Board Member Skubon
/ AT 8:10 PM; ALL PRESENT IN AGREEMENT

SIGNED: 

MARY ELLEN KARAMUS
BOARD OF HEALTH SECRETARY