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BOROUGH OF SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS
BOARD OF HEALTH

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MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
OF
July 20, 2021

6:00 P.M.

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SILENT REFLECTION AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL: LEONARD GILES – Present
VICKI HANLON – Present
KATHRYN MOLOUGHNEY - Absent
PATRICIA SKUBON – Present
JEROME BRENNAN - Present

HEALTH INSPECTOR: MIKE KOWAL
SECRETARY: MARY ELLEN KARAMUS

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.

1. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

- January 19, 2021 – on a motion by Ms. Hanlon, seconded by Ms. Skubon; all present in agreement, the minutes were approved.

2. COMMUNICATIONS:

- 01/06/2021 through 07/15/2021 Activity Report
 - Member Skubon asked Mr. Kowal what an environmental property search is. Mr. Kowal stated that the DEP keeps files relating to residential properties pertaining to environmental-related issues. Potential property buyers sometimes will submit OPRA requests pertaining to a property they may be interested in.
 - Ms. Skubon asked if 3 bat specimens reported in the activity report in February were in peoples' homes. Mr. Kowal stated that bats are tested if there is exposure in the home or outside.

Mr. Kowal added that Muskrat Mark picked up the bats and specimens were negative.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Chair Giles requested that council is asked to approve joining the NJ Local Boards of Health Association. Chair Giles added the Board joins every year.
- Chair Giles stated that as of the Board's last meeting of July 20, 2021, there was not a covid vaccine yet. Chair Giles stated that there was a lot of ongoing hard work with the Commission and the Health Department since that time regarding implementing covid vaccinations. Chair Giles added that he sat in on many meetings. Chair Giles stated that there was ongoing information from the state and implementation by the county. Chair Giles stated that the Health Officer received many calls for recommendations and information on schools and businesses and what they needed to do such as closings, restrictions and how covid affected them. Chair Giles added that the health officer and all of the health inspectors were very busy.
- Chair Giles stated that the Commission had received some grants prior to covid, one of which having to do with communicable diseases in our town and consortium towns. Chair Giles added that grant money is received for investigations which staff does. Chair Giles added grant is for the vulnerable populations outreach program, which is a two-year program
- Chair Giles stated that covid vaccine grants were given to help with vaccination costs. Chair Giles stated that although vaccinations were not available, the Commission did do a clinic. Chair Giles added that it is the County's responsibility to do clinics through the state. Chair Giles added that Mike Kowal and staff helped with clinics.; such as one at Monmouth University.
- Chair Giles stated that the Commission also received a grant for lead investigations and education which is for all of Monmouth County. Chair Giles said that the grant money serves Monmouth Health Department towns as well. Chair Giles added that those are the 3 major grants and that the Commission had not had grant money for a long time and is now starting to receive some.
- Chair Giles stated that he had, on his own, participated in a lot of County vaccination clinics. Chair Giles added that it was gangbusters for a while and then people were hesitant and not as many people were arriving at clinics. Chair Giles added that

clinics were not running smoothly in the beginning, as all projects, but he was very impressed with how smoothly it eventually became. Chair Giles said that the County did a great job.

- Chair Giles said that he had participated in an emergency shelter clinic held by the county. Chair Giles stated that after Irene and Sandy, approximately 3,000 people needed to be sheltered; a lot was learned. Chair Giles said that the County OEM coordinator Mike Oppegaard; the lead nurse from the health department and health educator were present. Chair Giles stated that the clinic was very informative. Chair Giles added that volunteers can register through the Medical Reserve Corps. Chair Giles said that there are a lot of good programs. Chair Giles added that that is how he got involved with the vaccine clinics. Board Member Skubon asked if anyone can volunteer. Chair Giles stated that anyone can volunteer; there are jobs for everyone; no one will be turned down. Board Member Brennan stated he has done it in the past and it is cool. Board Secretary asked if people who are testing positive are being tested to see which variant they are testing positive for or if they are just told they are positive. Mr. Kowal stated that rapid testing is not defining the variant. Mr. Kowal added that a PCR test will tell you the variant and individuals should be notified of variant. Mr. Kowal added that in some instances, people do not know they are positive until they are called by them.
- Mr. Brennan stated that if the Commission needs help with their grants, that he has an extensive background in implementation and grant writing on the federal, state and county level. Mr. Brennan added that he is familiar with the whole process and that he had run a federally funded HIV clinic for many years and if help is needed, to reach out to him. Mr. Kowal stated that is a great resource.
- Mr. Brennan asked if contact tracing was still being done. Mr. Kowal stated that that is still being done by the state but there are not as many employed tracers with the state. Mr. Kowal stated that tracers are employed through the state and are disbursed to health departments. Mr. Kowal stated people are not as responsive to answering phone calls and responding to questions. Mr. Kowal stated people are more comfortable now that they are vaccinated; they feel they will not be as severely ill or hospitalized but that is not always the case. Mr. Kowal stated that it is still good for exposure reasons that positive persons are

contacted in order to take precautions and not spread covid. Chair Giles stated they can still spread it. Chair Giles added that there are going to be breakthroughs and not everyone responds to vaccine; that nothing is 100%.

Chair Giles asked if there was anything else.

Chair Giles stated that the next meeting is October 19, 6:00.

Board Member Brennan asked Mr. Kowal if there was anything outstanding other than the activity list and the covid. Mr. Kowal stated that the activity reports do not have covid data on them. Mr. Kowal stated there is a separate data base for covid across the towns. Mr. Kowal stated that there were many phone calls regarding protocol for facilities, pools, restaurants, and social gatherings that are allowed to open now. Mr. Brennan asked if town pools are monitoring their pools. Mr. Kowal stated yes, they don't have to, but some do. Mr. Kowal stated last year they did have to and some just decided to not open last year. Mr. Kowal added that some facilities and pools still follow protocol, but others do not. Mr. Brennan stated that people in North Jersey are wearing masks and it is a different world regarding the pandemic compared to this area. Board Member Skubon agreed.

Chair Giles stated that there was a vaccine clinic at Red Bank Regional High School in conjunction with Walgreens which had approximately 100 participants. Chair Giles stated that the clinic was advertised to all schools in Commission towns and all administrators.


Chair Giles stated that the Health Department has had a zoom meeting every Thursday at 10:00 and that has been very popular with a lot of call-in questions to the health officer where the most current information was given weekly. Chair Giles added that that is still going on and may continue until schools re-open. Board Member Skubon asked if anyone can call into the zoom meetings. Chair Giles stated yes. Chair Giles added that there are also monthly Commission meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 11:30 where people can call in. Chair Giles stated that that is on the Commission website and is sent to town administrators as well.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

5. NEW BUSINESS:

6. VOICE OF THE PUBLIC - Open
7. VOICE OF THE PUBIC – Close

ADJOURNMENT ON A MOTION BY: Board Member Brennan; Seconded by Board Member Skubon, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 P.M.

SIGNED: 

MARY ELLEN KARAMUS
BOARD OF HEALTH SECRETARY
OCTOBER 19, 2021