
**BOROUGH OF SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS
MINUTES**

BOARD OF HEALTH

September 19, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

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.

SILENT REFLECTION AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL: Chair Leonard Giles - Present
Vice Chair Vicki Hanlon - Absent
Board Member Kate Moloughney - Present
Board Member Jerome Brennan - Present
Board Member Joseph Tompey - Absent

HEALTH OFFICER: Michael Balka

SECRETARY: Mary Ellen Karamus

1. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:
 - January 24, 2023 – Reorganization & Regular Meeting Minutes - on a motion by Board Member Brennan; seconded by Board Member Moloughney, all present in agreement, the minutes are approved.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - New Health Educator
 - Chairman Giles introduced Health Officer Michael Balka to the Board and told the Board Health Officer Belka's background and credentials. Chairman Giles stated that Mr. Balka started April 1. Chair Giles added that there were a lot of open items from the preceding 5 or 6 months during the period when the previous Health Officer had left. Chairman Giles stated that during that time, grants were being outsourced to a company administering grants, and that Health Officer Balka has taken that over. Chair Giles stated that grants were back on track, as well as new grants have been started. Chair Giles added that the accreditation process is also back on track and set for the next 4 years. Chair Giles stated that all is going smoothly, and he is happy to have Mr. Balka with the Commission. Chair Giles stated that Mr. Balka has taken stress off members of the Commission.
 - Mr. Balka introduced himself to the board. Mr. Balka stated that since his appointment in April, a new health educator, Ellie McCreesh, has also started. Mr. Balka informed the board of her credentials. Mr. Balka stated that Ms. McCreesh had started a suicide

prevention coalition and that a couple of towns are working with her. Mr. Balka added that if anyone would like to get involved or knows anyone who would like to get involved, let the Commission know that.

- Mr. Balka stated that there are new regulations concerning lead inspection of rental dwellings and added that the Commission is available to help towns. Mr. Balka added that lead inspections mostly involve building, zoning and code enforcement.
- Mr. Balka stated that a new building for the Commission was being looked at, as well as a new name for the Commission.
- Board Member Moloughney asked if lead inspection regulations were new for rentals. Mr. Balka stated that the new regulations are DCA regulations, not a health regulation, but that there is a cross-over of the two when it comes to lead. Mr. Balka stated that he has a lead inspector license, as well as two other Registered Environmental Health Specialists at the Commission also having lead inspector licenses. Mr. Balka stated that the Commission would like towns to know that assistance is available from them with lead inspections. Mr. Balka stated that the regulation is applicable to rental units, single or multiple, for any property built before 1974 and rented for more than six consecutive months; therefore, summer rentals are not a concern. Board Member Brennan stated he is in real estate and then stated the process regarding lead-based paint on the resale of properties and having people sign off on that; but that nothing had really happened in the past year regarding the inspection requirements. Mr. Balka informed the Board of the cyclical progression of the lead inspection requirements.

3. COMMUNICATIONS:

- Chair Giles asked if there were any new communications. There were none.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- Chair Giles asked if there was any old business. There was none.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- Chair Giles asked if anyone had any new business.
 - Chair Giles reiterated that there is the new suicide prevention coalition. Chairman Giles stated that the school superintendent had been informed of it. Board Member Moloughney stated that she would like to be in contact with Ms. McCreesh. Chair Giles suggested Board Member Moloughney give Mr. Balka her contact information.
 - Chair Giles told the Board that the Commission's current location had an extended lease to January 31st. He added that there is a new location that the Commission is interested in in Tinton Falls.
 - Chair Giles stated a new name was being proposed for the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission #1. Chair Giles added that the new name would be voted on at the Commission's next meeting.
 - Board Member Brennan asked for an update on an email about a stomach bug going around. Board Member Moloughney stated that someone reached out to her from the Commission. Mr. Balka stated that most people who had been involved had gone to

the south end of the Spring Lake Beach on Monday, Labor Day. Mr. Balka stated that various testing was done but they are still trying to figure out what had happened during that time. Board Member Moloughney stated that there was a stomach bug going on, but that there was much more to it; that people were very sick and that the scope of people effected in Spring Lake Heights were mostly on the south side of town. Mr. Brennan stated that after a heavy rain, Wreck Pond usually has a high concentration of bacteria that comes from the pond resulting with some Spring Lake beaches being closed Mr. Balka stated that weather charts showed that there was light rain between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Monday morning, although on Tuesday there was nothing showing on various testing.

VOICE OF THE PUBLIC - Chair Giles stated there was no public.

ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIRMAN GILES AT 6:14 P.M.

SIGNED: Mary Ellen Karamus
MARY ELLEN KARAMUS
BOARD OF HEALTH SECRETARY
MAY 14, 2024