

Approved 6/18/15

BOARD OF HEALTH

BOROUGH OF TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY
BOARD MEETING, March 19, 2015

The meeting of the Board of Health was held on the above date. Mr. Howard Bader, President, read the Board's compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Howard Bader, Dr. Michael Basista, Dr. Daniel Feit, Berton Greenberg, Mark Alvarez, Ruby Pujols, Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Sam Yanovich, Health Officer

Absent: Dr. Etta Frankel, Maria Xylas

Also present: Council Liaison Maxim Basch, Board of Health Secretary Valerie Nicolosi

A motion was made to approve the minutes of January 15, 2015. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

FEATURED SPEAKER

Mrs. Nicolosi introduced Cheryl Reynolds, President, TVAC, as the evening's featured speaker. She spoke about the upcoming blood drive (see below) and commented that many businesses in the downtown now have a policy of not permitting signs to be posted in windows. Councilman Basch will take up this issue with the BID board. She noted that the new members of the corps will be involved in taking blood pressure of blood donors and monitoring each after he/she gives blood to make sure they do not lose consciousness. TVAC may run another blood drive during the summer.

She advised that there are sixty (60) active members in TVAC, of which twenty (20) are new members this year. These new members will be going to school shortly for training. There are many high school students who are members of TVAC. Five (5) seniors have parking spaces in the front of the school so they can respond to calls during the day. Younger members (age 16) are usually brought to the building by parents, but they are able to drive after midnight if they have a licensed driver in the vehicle with them and have a conditional license.

Mr. Alvarez would like to get information for his daughter, who is very interested in joining TVAC. She wants to study in the field of medicine.

Ms. Reynolds indicated that TVAC is working on getting sleeping quarters for all members when there are overnights during snowstorms. Presently, people are sleeping on the floors in sleeping bags.

New members must learn all aspects of being a member, including rig check, washing the rig, and must complete 260 hours of classroom training. The cost for the classes is \$1,300 per student up front. If the student passes all classes, the money is refunded from the TVAC budget. She is happy to report that all students from Tenafly had money refunded...everyone passed.

Approved 6/18/15

Tenafly Board of Health
March 19, 2015
Page 2

She noted that ten students from Edgewater took the same classes and all students failed the course. In the future, the State will be paying for all courses.

She will be losing fifteen (15) members to graduation this year and is hopeful to recruit others to fill this gap. Board members were very impressed by the numbers of members on TVAC and particularly the number of younger members. Dr. Basista personally thanked Ms. Reynolds for her fifteen (15) years of service to the Borough and asked her to thank all the members of TVAC on his behalf.

Ms. Reynolds noted that TVAC responds to approximately 900-1000 calls per year. They work with the DPW to get plowed into streets during storms so they can assist residents. Younger members shovel walkways/steps to get to patients.

She was thanked for her informative presentation this evening.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Mr. Berton Greenberg read his Oath of Office as a Member, Tenafly Board of Health.

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

Recapping from Ms. Reynolds' presentation, Tenafly Ambulance Corps will be hosting a Blood Drive on Saturday, March 21, 2015, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot in front of the Borough Hall on Riveredge Road.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

REPORTS

Health Officer Sam Yanovich noted that the Medicare payments are coming in for the high dose vaccine given by the Borough last year and the Borough could expect reimbursement in the coming months. It was noted that the Mayor & Council have tentatively approved the 2015 Board of Health budget with an increase to \$4,500 in the line item for the high dose flu vaccine program. Mr. Yanovich will order the high dose vaccine for the Borough's program this year shortly.

He reviewed his report of March 2015 with the board members. The level of flu in the northeast region of New Jersey is still at the "high" level, although emergency room visits and influenza activity at long-term care facilities are down for their peak activity in January. The World Health Organization (WHO) has made its recommendations for changing two strains in the next season's quadrivalent vaccine based on analysis of the circulating strains this season. H3N2 will be replaced by a different "A" strains. WHO also released a statement concerning

Approved 6/18/15

Tenafly Board of Health
March 19, 2015
Page 3

unprecedented levels of “genetic swapping” in influenza strains, especially among avian strains in wild and domestic birds. It is thought that this could give rise to the occurrence of more novel strains that could threaten health in humans.

Mr. Yanovich reported that as of the end of February, there were two (2) confirmed measles cases in the State. Both of these cases have now recovered and are no longer contagious. All contacts of the most recent case would have been expected to develop symptoms by early March (results are pending). The State of New Jersey has a brochure available entitled “The Truth about Vaccines: Protecting Your Child Against Serious Disease”. Copies will be made available to residents in the information lobby at Borough Hall.

The submission of the annual State Local Health Report (LHR) was delayed this year as the State was concentrating its resources on the Ebola crises. The submission period will run from April 1 through June 30, 2015. Data will be submitted through a “Hippocrates” account. Ms. Pujols and Mrs. Nicolosi will coordinate the data input for the Borough.

Ms. Pujols, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, reviewed her January/February 2015 report with the board. Inspections were done on multiple restaurants, a mobile vendor and a nail salon, with most receiving a satisfactory rating. She did four (4) spot checks. She handled complaints regarding mold in a chocolate cake, a bad odor near a business, an unleashed dog.

Ms. Pujols was also reviewing licenses for the upcoming Street Fair and reviewed kitchen drawings from the Korean Community Center. She also reported that a court case resulting in a guilty verdict at trial with the restaurant paying a fine for failure to keep garbage inaccessible to rodents or insects.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is Thursday, June 18, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. in the Richard D. Wilson Committee Room.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor of the motion; none were opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie B. Nicolosi
Board of Health Secretary