

Approved 1/21/16

BOARD OF HEALTH

BOROUGH OF TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY
BOARD MEETING, November 12, 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 7:35 p.m.

The following members were present: Howard Bader, Dr. Michael Basista, Berton Greenberg, Dr. Etta Frankel, Maria Xylas, Councilman Max Basch, Ruby Pujols, Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Sam Yanovich, Health Officer

Absent: Dr. Daniel Feit and Mark Alvarez

Also present: Acting Board of Health Secretary Christine Attanasio

A motion was made to approve the minutes of September 17, 2015. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Frankel was concerned that businesses in the Borough may not be aware that Ordinance No. 15-11, "Sales of Tobacco and Nicotine Delivery Products" was passed prohibiting any sale of tobacco or nicotine delivery products to any person under the age of 21 years. Councilman Basch commented that the Mayor and Council are considering modifying the resolution to required tobacco sellers to have signs prominently displayed in their stores noting the prohibition of tobacco sales to any person under the age of 21 years.

Dr. Frankel revisited the issue of defibrillators in the Borough questioning where they are located and if there is an action plan of how to use them. Mrs. Xylas explained the availability and how they are used in a school environment according to Janet's Law. Mrs. Attanasio noted that Mrs. Nicolosi has a Defibrillator Inventory for the Borough of Tenafly and will resend the list to the Board of Health members for their review.

Dr. Frankel contacted the JCC regarding a discounted rate for senior citizens to use the indoor swimming facilities. She noted that this option was still too expensive. Councilman Basch also suggested the 24 hour Gym (formerly Bally's) in Englewood which honors the program, Silver Sneakers. This is a free program in conjunction with Medicare/Medicare Plus which caters to senior citizens. He just became a member. Dr. Frankel will investigate.

The Borough's Annual Flu Clinic was held on Monday, September 21, 2015, at 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in the McCandless Room. The make-up dates were Friday, October 2, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Tenafly Public Library and October 16, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Tenafly Senior Center. One hundred twenty-seven (127) doses were administered; ninety (90) high dose flu vaccines, thirty-six (36) Quadrivalent vaccines and one (1) employee paid Quadrivalent vaccine. The Borough paid for one hundred forty 140 doses of the high dose flu vaccine with fifty (50) doses unused. Mr. Yanovich will coordinate with Mrs. Nicolosi for reimbursement to the Borough.

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Mr. Yanovich followed-up with Dr. Frankel's suggestion of offering the flu vaccine to high school seniors. Mr. Yanovich made numerous calls to the Tenaflly school district. He was either transferred to someone else or left a voice mail with no response to the message. Unless someone can point him in the direction of a helpful contact, he is assuming at this point, there is no interest in a flu clinic program.

Councilman Basch inquired whether Narcan can be available in a school environment in cases of emergencies, since it is considered an over-the-counter drug. Mrs. Xylas explained that this is a very controversial issue. Only EMTs and the police can administer the drug in emergency situations. There is discussion at the state level whether it will be allowed in the schools and how it will be administered and by whom; such as the school nurse. Mr. Yanovich will investigate further.

REPORTS

Ms. Ruby Pujols, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, reviewed her September/October 2015 report with the board. Inspections were done on multiple restaurants, childcare centers and also vendors participating in WoofStock and the Tenaflly Chamber of Commerce sponsored October Street Fair with all receiving a satisfactory rating. During this period, there were four (4) dog bite cases reported. One (1) of the dog bite cases; the dog showed no signs of rabies but because of the aggressive behavior exhibited to his owner, it was determined by the owner and the veterinarian to humanely euthanize the animal. A second warning letter was sent to a resident requesting that she license her cats. This is still under investigation. Cooper Pest Control conducted an inspection and baited the area around the Roosevelt Common skate park because of rat burrows being sighted. There was an anonymous complaint about dogs being allowed inside Miller's Bakery. Ms. Pujols called the bakery owner and explained the NJSHD regulation that animals are not allowed inside food establishments unless they are service dogs. She also visited two (2) properties to investigate anonymous complaints about wasp nests. The owners removed the nests.

As a follow-up to the discussion regarding condemned and/or vacant properties in the Borough, Ms. Pujols with Code Enforcement Official, Robert McQuade inspected each property. Requests to address the code violations were made to the property owners. Both Ms. Pujols and Mr. McQuade will follow-up to assure that the requested actions were completed by the owners. Two of the properties are occupied. Mr. Yanovich suggested that there may be correlating factors between the mental and physical state of the resident and debilitating condition of the property. He indicated that there is a program through HARP that a representative can conduct an outreach home assessment of the residing occupant and make a thorough evaluation. The Board was in favor of this intervention and asked that Mr. Yanovich forward the information to a HARP representative. Board members were very concerned at the increase of condemned and/or vacant properties in the Borough, the negative effect that they are having on the neighborhood and how this Board could address this growing situation. They would like the code enforcement

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official to come to the next available meeting and explain the Borough's procedure, rules and regulations in handling such properties.

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Health Officer Sam Yanovich noted that Influenza activity level is low throughout the State according to the latest report from October. The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) sent out an advisory at the end of October concerning an outbreak of pertussis. There has been an increase in cases in the past four (4) months. The majority of cases are children under 19 years, of whom 52% were unvaccinated, or not up to date with a pertussis vaccine. The NJDOH is working with local health departments to manage the exposures.

In continuing Mid-Bergen's accreditation, they are partnering with HARP in developing two (2) pamphlets. One is informational material about Mid-Bergen and its programs and the other is a Community Education survey. These documents will be distributed at the annual Leonia/Mid-Bergen health fair and at other community events.

The annual Community Health Improvement Partnership meeting was held at Holy Name Hospital on October 21, 2015. The Partnership consists of two (2) task forces; Mental Health and Substance Abuse and Nutrition/Physical Activity. The first task force is involved with "Stigma Free" initiatives and the latter with "Wellness Challenges". Mr. Yanovich noted that Tenaflly is proactive and ahead of the curve with the Mayor's Wellness Campaign programs which makes for healthy residents.

Mr. Yanovich submitted the proposal for Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission for the Borough of Tenaflly for 2016. Mrs. Nicolosi will review and include it for the 2016 budget preparation.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the Richard D. Wilson Committee Room.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor of the motion; none were opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Attanasio
Acting Board of Health Secretary