

Approved 6/16/16

BOARD OF HEALTH

BOROUGH OF TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY
BOARD MEETING, March 17, 2016

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, Berton Greenberg, Dr. Etta Frankel, Dr. Daniel Feit, Dr. Michael Basista, Ruby Parra, Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Sam Yanovich, Health Officer

Absent: Maria Xylas, Mark Alvarez

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes of January 21, 2016. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Gloria Layne, Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Service Committee, was present to give a brief update on the goals and objectives of the committee and its members. The committee would like to make Tenafly an age-friendly community with residents aging in place so they may remain in their homes. She has been working with Councilman Basch and the committee to put together a job description for a part time employee, preferably a social service worker, to work on an individual/family basis with residents. She will be meeting with Joanne Wendolowski of HARP to discuss programs to avoid duplication of services.

Ms. Layne commented that there were many programs which the committee is investigating. They would like to see the Senior Center open on the weekends. It was thought that perhaps high school juniors and seniors who are required to do community service could help at the center on weekends or visit with seniors in his/her home over the weekend. Programs at the center on the weekend could include the showing of a movie, coffee hour or a brown bag lunch day.

Councilman Basch described the duties of the hired staff person. He/she would work twenty (20) hours a week and assist with medical appointments, tax appointments, housing, healthcare, and transportation needs.

It was thought that the senior community could help students/young people with tutoring classes in the library. Another idea was that EMT courses could be offered at the Senior Center. The Senior Citizens Service Committee is working with the Interfaith Committee coordinated by Pastor Lynne Weber to reach out to its older church parishioners. The committee wants to work

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with the Police Department to explore the benefits of the Peace of Mind program and work to enhance it further. A suggestion was made that perhaps high school students could call senior citizens to make sure they were OK each day.

Councilman Basch advised the board that the committee is working on obtaining a senior bus for the Borough. Many of the neighboring municipalities have senior transportation available to its residents. It was noted that a survey of senior citizens in Tenaflly was done approximately three (3) years ago and the major issue of concern was transportation. There was some discussion on bus cost, bus drivers, insurance and other costs associated with the program. It was thought that perhaps the crossing guards would drive the buses; however, a CDL license is required, which he/she would have to obtain in order to drive. The issue of liability to the Borough in regards to the senior bus as well as the proposed employee was discussed briefly.

The board thanked Mrs. Layne for her informative presentation and her willingness to serve as chairperson of the committee. Mrs. Layne thanked Councilman Basch for his assistance in getting many of the concerns of the committee addressed.

REPORTS

Mr. Yanovich reviewed his March 2016 report with the board. The latest influenza activity report from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) indicated that influenza is widespread in the state at a "high" level. Further, according to data released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), preliminary influenza vaccine effectiveness for the 2015-2016 flu seasons is 59%.

He updated the board on the Zika Virus. There have been an estimated 1.5 million cases reported in South America. Four million cases are predicted by the end of this year. While mosquitoes of the Aedes species are known to be the main vector, recent reports suggest possible transmission through semen and blood transfusions. Another study in Brazil found that the mosquito species Culex may also be able to transmit the virus. This could allow the virus to spread more easily into regions other than the tropics, since Culex mosquitoes inhabit more temperate areas such as the southern United States. According to a recent study of the outbreak in French Polynesia, approximately 1% of women infected with the virus in their first trimester of pregnancy developed a fetus with microcephaly.

Legislation has passed both the New Jersey State Assembly and the Senate which would restore \$10 million for lead hazard abatements. It would lower the lead action level to 5 ug/dl. This could identify approximately 3,000-5,000 more cases per year in the State. It would require municipalities to inspect single and two-family homes for lead with consultation of local health departments. Lead has been detected in the water in the Newark school system and many children are being tested as a result.

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There was much discussion on this topic. The sewer infrastructure in most towns, primarily made with lead pipes, including Tenaflly, is very old. Members questioned whether the water at Tenaflly schools had ever been tested for lead. It was suggested that Councilman Basch speak with the Mayor & Council regarding lead testing of all water sources in each of the Borough schools. He will report back to the board at its next meeting.

A copy of the NJ Local board of Health manual was distributed to all board members. This manual is very useful for new members in understanding his/her role as a member of the Board of Health.

Ms. Parra, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, reviewed her report which covered January-March 2016. Many inspections were done at numerous food establishments, including County Manor and a mobile vendor. There was one reported dog bite case; however, she was unable to contact the pet owner. There was a complaint from a woman regarding pool water at the JCC. All laboratory analysis done since last summer had been provided to the health department. Copies of the analysis were provided to her after she filed an OPRA request. There were several complaints involving pest control, heating issues, conditions at a condemned property and second hand smoke at Tenaflly Plaza. Ruby is following up on all of these complaints.

Ms. Parra noted that there is a resident in Tenaflly who would like to have chickens. She will reach out to this individual and forward a copy of the regulations for such livestock and will invite her to the next Board of Health meeting. Regulations stipulate that a permit is required for the keeping of chickens.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Tenaflly Volunteer Ambulance Corps is sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. in front of Borough Hall on Riveredge Road.

Registration at the Senior Center for the program “A Matter of Balance, Managing Concerns about Falls” is going well with twenty (20) people registered already. The program runs every Friday starting on May 6, 2016 and running through June 24, 2016. These sessions are provided by the Tenaflly Board of Health, Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission and the Tenaflly Senior Center in partnership with the Health Awareness Regional Program (HARP) of HackensackUMC.

Mrs. Nicolosi noted that she had received a flyer from Joanne Wendolowski of HARP regarding a Family & Friends CPR Anytime program, which she would like to run for the Borough. A similar program was done previously in September 2007. The board would very much like to offer this program again. A Free CPR Anytime Kit will be provided to participants who receive the CPR training. Mrs. Nicolosi will coordinate with Ms. Wendolowski to schedule this event.

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An email should be forthcoming shortly to all board members regarding the filing of a financial disclosure statement for the State. All members are urged to respond to the directions in this email promptly to avoid fines from the State for failure to file.

OLD BUSINESS

There was much discussion regarding the Borough's hosting of another flu clinic. Councilman Basch noted that Mrs. Xylas sent an email to all board members about the possibility of Rite Aid coming to the Borough to administer various vaccines. He advised that he had visited with CVS representatives; and they would be willing to do the same for the Borough and include vaccines for pneumonia and shingles as well. Vaccines would be free with insurance. Costs would vary if an individual did not have insurance. There were concerns regarding the logistics of another clinic, i.e., staffing, location, date and time. Councilman Basch offered to follow up with CVS to see how exactly this additional program would work.

The flu vaccine program offered by HARP and Mid-Bergen Regional Commission would continue. Mrs. Nicolosi explained the high-dose flu vaccine agreement with Mid-Bergen to the board members. There is no cost to the Borough for this program. Mr. Yanovich explained that the seniors like the program run by HARP very much. All publicity for the program is handled by that agency; including sending past participants postcards with the date/time of the clinic. A press release is forwarded to the newspapers as well. Mr. Yanovich also explained that if someone cannot attend the clinic or any of the make-up dates that a HARP nurse will make a home visit to administer the vaccine.

The board would like to see an additional clinic offered to the public. Councilman Basch will report this to the Mayor & Council and will update the board at its next meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the Richard D. Wilson Committee Room.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:51p.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