

**HOPEWELL VALLEY
BOARD OF HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes

Wednesday, April 20, 2011 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Hopewell Township Municipal Building Conference Room

If you are unable to attend please contact Gary Guarino
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Call meeting to order by Advisory Board of Health Chairperson, Jan Bishop.

Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News and Trenton Times (the official newspapers) on December 23, 2010 P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

Roll Call - Mrs. Jan Bishop, Dr. Mark Sherwood, Dr. Sharon Gertzman, Mr. Mike Rothwell, Mrs. Kathy Hill, Mrs. Kim Johnson, Mr. Allen Thomas, Mr. Matt Martin

Upon review of the minutes for February 2, 2011 meeting. Dr. Gertzman moved to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Thomas seconded.

Mr. Guarino presented an update on the GMPHP(aka) Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative grant application.

Mr. Guarino noted the health department is collaborating with the other health departments and the area hospitals to create an action plan to apply for a two year grant of approximately \$250,000. The grant will be utilized to conduct and implement a community health needs assessment for Mercer County. GMPHP is a collaboration of 13 organizations including the United Way of Greater Mercer County, St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center, Princeton Hospital, Hamilton Hospital, and Capital Health-Hopewell Campus. The Four area hospitals have agreed to pay \$3,000 to hire a grant writer. Mr. Guarino will keep the Board informed concerning the application process.

Next on the agenda was an update on the 2010 National Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) Profile Survey which has been revised. Ms. Kim Johnson, Board of Health Chairman, completed the survey and welcomed feedback from Advisory Board members regarding accreditation and clarifying roles and responsibilities for current Board of Health members and Advisory Board of Health members. Ms. Johnson will further discuss issues regarding the Profile Survey as it will be a topic of discussion at the next Board of Health meeting scheduled for May 9, 2011.

Mr. Guarino led discussion regarding the H1N1 Grant for 2011 - \$10,000. Mr. Guarino advised new computers have been purchased, a database is being implemented and the current emergency preparedness plan is being rewritten and updated. A training session for all Mercer County Health Departments will be held in May at the Sun Bank Arena in Trenton, New Jersey.

The POD (Point of Distribution) drill on June 7, will address security and traffic control issues. Credit for the drill is through the CDC, and a requirement for the chosen site is an inside arena in the city of Trenton.

Ms. Kathy Hill and Mr. Guarino concurred the previous flu season was very mild and the demand for the vaccine was less than anticipated.

The next item on the agenda was review and discussion of the following septic system applications that need waivers or other relief from the board of health.

The first application for review was from **Kathleen Kainer, Karen Kainer & Carolyn Demouth, Block 43.24 Lot 44, 8 Blue Spruce Drive, Pennington, NJ.**

Mr. Guarino presented a detailed history of the property indicating the lot was created for Elm Ridge Park in the 1970's and the current owners purchased the property in 2006.

Mr. Guarino noted to date, 8 soil tests have been completed resulting in extremely limited permeability. Mr. Guarino stated it is difficult to support approving an onsite disposal system on the property due to the fact the property is an undersized lot 1.5 acre. The current requirements for a mound system, for new construction, are 2 acres and must comply 100%. Mr. Guarino expressed concerns regarding the depth of ground water which is four feet.

The location is restricted by distances to lot lines, existing wells and septic systems on adjoining lots. Mr. Thomas expressed concern with the depth of casing for the well.

Princeton Junction Engineering presented a grading plan short of the 50 foot requirement. Mr. Falcone is proposing a raised peat bed system.

Ms. Bishop requested Mr. Guarino recommendations and requirements for the above-mentioned property. Mr. Guarino strongly recommended the septic system be built prior to issuance of the well and building permit. The engineer must monitor the excavation (during the summer months) monitoring the permeability of the soil and check for fracturing within the bedrock. Mr. Guarino recommends base line testing of neighboring wells due to concerns about distances to lot lines. In addition, Mr. Guarino recommends the system should be load tested to ensure the design meets permeability rates. The system requires a minimum of two deep inspection ports.

A motion was made by Dr. Sherwood that Board members agreed with Mr. Guarino recommendations as presented. The waiver application for the abovementioned property will advance to the Board of Health and then the Zoning Board for approval. Mr. Rothwell seconded.

The next application for review was from **Robert & Maria Merrick, Block 69 Lot 53 - 107 Corrine Drive, Pennington, NJ.**

Mr. Guarino advised lot #53 is an undersized lot and was never built on and with only an earlier attempt at getting perc, but discontinued due to water encounter in the perc holes. Mr. Guarino stated there is a concern with the depth of ground water and recorded soil type. NJDEP must determine if this is fresh water wetlands. The lot is less than the 80,000 square feet required for a mound system and less than 80% of the requirement for consideration for a undersized lot by the board of health. In addition, it was determined there were issues with potable water supply in the area with elevated nitrate levels.

It is Mr. Guarino's recommendation, that the application be denied due to the above mentioned deficiencies and until DEP rules on the wetland issue.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, and Board members unanimously agreed with Mr. Guarino recommendations as presented. The waiver application for the above mentioned property was denied. Mr. Rothwell seconded.

The final application for review was from **Michael & Linda Mattei, Block 115 Lot 83, 6 Washington Avenue, Titusville, NJ.**

The applicant had inherited the property which was abandoned in 2003.

In 2009, the property was cited as a public health nuisance for insects, rodents and trash and an unsafe structure. The owners decided to remove the dwelling and had the well and septic sealed. The lot is undersized and below the current 1 acre requirements for well and septic. Mr. Guarino advised if the property is determined to be an "existing" the septic system can be brought into compliance to correct a malfunction. The casing of the well would be 100+ feet. Mr. Guarino stated an application must be made to NJDEP as a TWA is required for not meeting the design criteria in addition to township approvals from the Board of Health and Zoning Board.

Mr. Thomas made the argument that although there are nitrate and bacteria issues in the Washington crossing area the original dwelling and cesspool were problematic and that with the new well and new septic field for the property was improving on what could have been being contributed to the water issues by the older systems.

A motion was made by Mr. Rothwell, and seconded Mr. Matt Martin that the application may move forward to the board of health and the Zoning Board with recommendations and based on the assumption it is an "existing condition."

Mr. Guarino referenced the Rabies report 1st quarter of 2011 & commulative to date.

Discussion was held regarding issues with free roaming cats and feral cats.

Mr. Guarino clarified the definition of feral cat colonies.

There being no further business, Mr. Rothwell moved to adjourn, Mr. Thomas seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Prassas