

**HOPEWELL VALLEY
ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH
Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Hopewell Township Municipal Building Health Clinic Lower Level**

This is to affirm that the regularly scheduled meeting of the Hopewell Valley Advisory Board of Health has been duly advertised and is being conducted in compliance with all provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

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 22., 2011 P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. Revised date sent 1-27-12

The February 1, 2012 meeting of the Hopewell Township Health Advisory Committee was called to order by Gary Guarino at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Matt Martin, Jan Bishop, Allen Thomas, Kathy Hill, Michael Rothwell, Mrs. Kim Johnson, Dr. Mark Sherwood

Absent: Dr. Sharon Gertzman

Also Present:

Health Officer, Gary Guarino and Bob English

The first order of business was establishing the appointments of chairperson and vice-chairman. The chairperson would be responsible for running the meeting and addressing the Township Committee with their recommendations on various issues. Mr. Rothwell nominated Jan Bishop to be re-appointed as chairman, Mr. Thomas seconded.

Mr. Thomas nominated Kathy Hill to serve as vice-chairman, Matt Martin seconded.

Kathy Hill moved to re-appoint Kathy Prassas as secretary to the Advisory Board of Health, Mark Sherwood seconded.

Mr. Guarino provided a listing of meeting dates for the Hopewell Valley Board of Health Advisory Committee for the coming year. Jan Bishop moved to approve the dates as presented, Matt Martin seconded.

Upon review of minutes from the April 20, 2011 regular meeting, Allen Thomas moved to approve, Mark Sherwood seconded. Minutes approved.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the RWJ grant and the Greater Mercer County Public Health Partnership. Mr. Guarino advised that five grants have been awarded to the following five groups, Hunterdon Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson Hospital/St. Peter's

Medical Center, The Trenton Health Team, one in North Jersey and one in South Jersey. Mr. Guarino reported on a meeting at Robert Wood focusing on collaboration and a needs assessment which must be completed by the summer. Discussion was held regarding setting up focus groups, recruiting consultants and scheduling a Focus group Week sometime in April of 2012. Items for discussion will be planning a comprehensive document reflecting the specific needs of the community. The hospital partners are required to report needs and benefits to the Federal government under the Federal Care Act. There is a \$50,000 penalty if they do not comply but worse is they can lose their non-profit status. The Trenton Health team is working on implementation of an electronic medical records.

Capital Health news and Updates – Mr. Guarino advised the hospital opened on November 6, 2011 and as of the end of December 2011, has recorded 350 births. Mr. Guarino reported on the process for the issuance of birth records, declaration of paternity, additional fees for birth certificate and death certificates. Mr. Guarino reported on the impact of the additional administrative responsibilities on the Health Office advising a representative from the State's Registrar's Office will be coming tomorrow to meet and discuss the above mentioned issues and language barriers. The average salary for a certified registrar in the State is \$50,000.

Mr. Guarino advised Public Health Nurse, Mary Rozner, has been handling the outreach needs of the community by coordinating meals on wheels, performing day care audits and coordinating flu clinics.

Mr. Matt Martin reported on Capital Health's impact on EMS advising a quick turn-around with response time, State of the art alarm systems, volunteer response and conducting routine inspections of the facility.

Health Home and Safety Expo Program is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2012 from 10:00-2:00 p.m. at the Public Works Garage. Board members discussed fees for vendors and representation by experts ranging from radon, solar energy, water treatment, pet programs, gardening, heating and cooling specialists, well testing. Experts will be available to answer questions and discuss concerns to ensure a healthy home and healthy family.

Mr. Guarino advised he will send as an attachment, the Local Board of Health Environmental Health Primer, which is an encyclopedia of environmental health as the education piece and power point to be incorporated for the June 9th program.

Mr. Guarino reported on a septic system application for a lot that needs waivers or other relief from the board of health. Mr. Guarino reported the application listed on the agenda 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 due to failure to perc. Mr. Guarino stated there is a concern with the depth of ground water and recorded soil type, nitrate levels are elevated. The lot is less than the 80,000 square feet required for a mound system and less than 50% of the requirement for 2 acres. In addition, it was determined there were issues with potable water supply.

Mr. Guarino's previously recommended the application be denied due to the above-mentioned deficiencies and await a ruling from the DEP on the wetland issue. The applicants have reapplied and are requesting a special permit be issued and ruled upon at the April 18th Board of Advisory Health Meeting. Upon approval, the application will be sent to the Zoning Board, as the lot does not meet the requirement for a mound system and has issues with drainage.

Board members requested Mr. Guarino's current recommendation concerning the application. Mr. Guarino advised he will re-run the report and conduct further research on the property. Mr. Guarino suggested ideally the lot would remain vacant and be classified "an open space lot."

Ms. Kim Johnson reported on a training program for volunteers and updated Advisory Board members on the status of Township Committee members. Ms. Johnson also reported on the referendum for ELSA and re-negotiations for businesses at the circle in an effort to save the ELSA contract.

Other items:

Mr. Guarino presented a detailed flu update and state report for weekending 1-14-2012.

Mr. Guarino referenced the Communicable Disease Report 2011 for the Valley.

Mr. Guarino reported on the Rabies report for year 2011.
The Rabies Clinic was held on January 7, 2012.

Mr. Guarino invited members to attend the celebration, Open House – United Way of Greater Mercer County's new offices February 9th from 4:30-7:00 p.m. at the Crossroads Corporate Center, 3150 Brunswick Pike, Suite 230, Lawrenceville, NJ

NACCHO Dispatch - December 2011

NJEHA conference will be held in Atlantic City, NJ – March 4, 5, 6 regarding environmental health.

Hopewell, Valley Night at Waterfront Park Trenton Thunder will be held on Friday, June 22, 2012. The event is sponsored by the Hopewell Valley Municipal Alliance.

There being no further business Mr. Rothwell moved to adjourn the meeting, Mrs. Hill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

The next meeting for the Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Prassas
Secretary Advisory Committee
Hopewell Township