

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**BOROUGH OF TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY**  
**BOARD MEETING, September 18, 2008**

The meeting of the Board of Health was held on the above-mentioned date. Dr. Galit Sacajiu read the Board's compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

On Roll Call the following members were present: Dr. Hugh Evans, Dr. Daniel Feit, Sharon Heissenbuttel, and Dr. Galit Sacajiu.

Absent: Howard Bader, Dimitra Gebhard and William Kuhns

Also present was: Sam Yanovich, Health Officer, Martha Rogalski, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Grace Mays, Registrar, and Council Representative Patrick J. Rouse.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** – The minutes from the June 19, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**OLD BUSINESS** – Grace spoke with the Paul Roman, President of the Local Board of Health regarding the Role of Board Responsibilities/Training Options. Grace informed Mr. Roman that on several occasions she has tried to reach out to John Saccenti and Stephen Papenberg with no response. Mr. Roman gave Grace another contact to try. He also provided information for Tenafly's board members on two conferences: The Annual Health Officials Conference and PHACE (Public Health Associations' Collaborative Effort) which will hold it first annual Statewide Public Health Sharing Conference on September 24, 2008 and October 23, 2008 both at the Conference Center at Mercer County College in West Windsor, NJ. All board members were encouraged to attend. Mr. Roman also mentioned that the Local Boards of Health will have a workshop in the Spring of 2009 on Board Orientation.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Grace read the letter of resignation for Valerie Nicolosi who held the position of Deputy Registrar for the department. Grace spoke to the State Registrar who mentioned that any vacancy is required by law to be filled within 10 days, by administrative policy the State will allow the delay of the appointment until the next board meeting. Dr. Sacajiu asked how the department will be covered. Grace stated until a replace is found customers can obtain vital records through the State Department of Health, either through telephone by calling direct (609)292-4087 or toll free nationwide (866)649-8726. The public may also visit the offices: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration, 140 East Front Street, Trenton, NJ. Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, excluding State Holidays or through a third party approved vendor called VitalChek, website ordering by [www.vitalcheck.com](http://www.vitalcheck.com), or phone (800)255-2414.

The Demarest Veterinarian has express interest to participate in our free rabies program. The service contract will consist of providing rabies vaccinations to eligible pet owners all year round by appointment with no exam. The health department will provide vaccines and syringes and a copy of the invoice and in turn the veterinarian will provide rabies certificates and a bill.

Membership cards were distributed to all members in attendance for becoming a member of the New Jersey Local Boards of Health.

**HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT** – Sam reported on several topics from his report: Influenza 2008/2009 while some medical journals have recently questioned the scientific evidence concerning the flu vaccine's protection against the flu virus, evidence still supports the overall public health message that the vaccine is important, even if it may not offer more than thirty percent protection. The CDC has no plans to change the vaccine recommendations, although it is looking into more effective flu vaccines for the elderly.

He also, stated suppliers and manufacturers of this years' vaccine do not expect any delay in delivery of product, so the majority of Mid-Bergen's clinics have been scheduled for earlier dates than in previous years. Evidence from the

2007/2008 influenza season shows that influenza activity peaked earlier last year than in previous years. This year's clinic will be open to anyone over the age of eighteen per CDC guidelines.

Pandemic Flu/Emergency Preparedness - All local health departments in New Jersey have completed the third Pandemic Flu mini-grant budget period. Mid-Bergen has allocated funds to increase capacities and emergency planning including: diagnostic equipment at local Child Health Conference, communication equipment to inspectors(REHSs), emergency Red-Cross kits to all REHSs and PHNs, Pandemic flu emergency kits to all PHNs, New web design in planning stage in order to increase community awareness, updated Pan Flu plan with hired consultant and meeting with other local health departments to coordinate planning(i.e. regional educational programs on continuity of government(COG) and continuity of operations(COOP) when Pandemic arrives.)

The regional COG & COOP programs are being planned for eight different dates and times throughout the County. The times have yet to be determined, but will be offered to a town's critical department heads, Board of Health members, OEM coordinators, and Board of Education administrators.

Restrictions on Human Rabies Vaccine - Due to vaccine production issues occurring simultaneously for both of the only 2 companies which manufacture the vaccine, rabies vaccine administration at hospital emergency departments are supposed to be delayed for non-high risk situations, until consultation with a Health Officer (HO). Local HOs are given a new password weekly, in order to allow Emergency departments to reorder vaccine when a situation for administration is deemed necessary. Inventory for hospitals that provide post-exposure prophylaxis are to be maintained for only high-risk situations such as actual bites from high-risk animals that are not available for testing.

Dr. Sacajiu spoke about the collaboration effort with the Tenafly Public Schools. Spoke specifically to Lynn Trager who was very happy to cooperate. Dr. Sacajiu will stay in contact with her through email.

**REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTOR** – Martha reviewed her reports. There were two reports that were of interest. One was a complaint regarding rats. The complainant stated that there are rats coming onto his property from a neighbor due to the high grass and debris. The complainant stated that the vacant property is not taken care of and that is the reason he is seeing more and more rats in his yard. At the time of inspection, Martha did not find any evidence of rats on the vacant property but at the complainant's home she found a burrow and several bird baths which may be attracting the rats during the hot weather. Martha suggested that the complainant removes the bird baths so that the rats have no reason to come to his property. The Building Department also went out to inspect the properties and found old leaves and wood in one of the adjacent yards. The owners were advised to remove the debris immediately. The case is still pending in court.

The second was noise complaint. The complainant stated that the home owners next door have a loud speaker on their home which deters birds from landing on their home, but this is causing a nuisance for her and her family. At the time of inspection, the noise meter read that the noise of the loud speakers ranged from 55-59 decibels depending on location in the complainants' yard. The Tenafly Ordinance stated that in a residential area the noise cannot exceed 55 decibels during the day. According to this ordinance the home owners are in violation. Martha sent a letter to the home owners advising them of this situation. The home owners agreed to turn off the speaker which faces the complainant's yard. Prior to their court case Martha attempted to take another noise reading to see if they were still in violation but was unable to due to the cicada bugs outside that day. Martha will return to the property to ensure that the home owners are following the Tenafly Ordinance properly.

**REGISTRAR'S REPORT** – Grace reviewed her report. There are 70 pet owners who have not licensed their dogs. Numerous letters were sent out for incompliance and well as summons. Pet owners are getting their pets rabies shots but are not licensing. There was a lengthy discussion regarding what to do next. Grace will provide information to the Administrator for the newsletter regarding pet registration.

The Electronic Death Registration System is now up a running and is mandated by the State of New Jersey.

**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE'S REPORT** – None

**VOUCHERS** - All vouchers have been submitted and presented to the Council. All were approved and paid as listed.

Dr. Feit made a motion to go into the closed executive session to discuss personnel matters. Minutes will be kept of the meeting and will be made public when the matter is resolved. It was seconded by Dr. Evans.

Minutes of closed board of health meeting on September 18, 2008 – There was discussion of personnel issues. It was agreed that further discussion will take place.

Dr. Feit made a motion to open the public session and there being no further business to come before the Board, meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM

Grace E. Mays  
Registrar/Administrative Assistant

MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN AT THE November 20, 2008 MEETING.