



TOWNSHIP of HOPEWELL

MERCER COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Also Serving Hopewell Borough & Pennington Borough

201 Washington Crossing Pennington Road
Titusville, New Jersey 08560-1410
Phone: (609) 737-0120 / Fax: (609) 737-6836

FINAL MINUTES

PENNINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

TUESDAY, October 21, 2025 – 6:15 p.m., ZOOM



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

I. Call Meeting to Order / Statement of Proper Notice @ 6:23 PM

Chair Read: “Adequate notice of this meeting as required by sections 3(d) and 4(a) of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public and filed with the Borough Clerk.”

II. **Secretary:** Roll Call

Steve Papenberg, Chair (X) Mariya Brown (X) Katherine Fellman (X) Marjorie Kaplan (X)
Ronald Suzuki (A) John Valenza, Borough Council Liaison (A) Gary Dorsi, Health Officer (X)

III. Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag

IV. Minutes Submitted for Approval – June 10, 2025

Mariya Brown motioned to approve the minutes, Marjorie Kaplan seconded. Approved unanimously.

V. Old Business

- a. Environmental Commission Survey: Steve needs to followup on this survey.
- b. Landfill Redevelopment Plan
- c. NJLBHA / PHACE: Steve says still working on getting the legislature to approve local public health priority funding under Title 26.
- d. Board / Commission Chairs Meeting with Council – Steve did attend annual event on Twp Council with BOH activities focusing on the Mercer County CHIP and Public Health partnership, will discuss more on the joint meeting section of agenda.
- e. Local Emergency Planning Committee – rail safety. We need to set up better communication with local emergency planning committee also. Gary has sent him emails to the CSX contact multiple times with Mayor and Business Administrator cced but no response from CSX. We continue to be concerned about bridge infrastructure, loose grout and loose stones and integrity of the bridge and frequency of inspections of the bridge and safety measures being taken overall with respect to the trains running through town. Council liaison has not attended recent meetings. We have asked about this issue for more than a year. Steve will discuss with GP Boro Administrator the need for a meeting with the mayor to express our concerns about lack of response by CSX.
- f. Lead paint testing product: Isles was at our Joint Board of Health meeting and noted they provided this service for free. Gary can reach out to Isles and get this information and put on the Pennington Boro BOH website and posted in the Municipal building and shared with various

comms outlets. We can get the flyer from Isles. Gary will follow up with Isles to get the flyer and send to the Boro for our website and other sharing.

- g. Municipal Alliance / Opioid Settlement Fund: Steve has not been able to connect with Councilman John Valenza and will also followup on this with GP (Boro Admin).
- h. Avian flu: no human cases thus far, surveillance systems in place with it. Information will be put on the website.
- i. Measles; had been a local outbreak previously at hospital but no current outbreaks in our jurisdiction. Best prevention is the MMR vaccine and if vaccinated before 1957 should still be immune but people can get titer checked to see if they need a booster.
- j. Board of Health goals – alignment with CHIP, discussed at our joint meeting the 4 major areas of concern this is available on the website of Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership and we as board should discuss this at our next meeting. Can access the current CHIP and make notes and carry it forward. Time in January meeting good to review the goals. Can find the CHIP here: <https://gmphp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/GMPHP-CHIP-Report-Final-July-28-2025.pdf> an objective is to provide safe and healthy housing. We may want to formulate a goal around that partnership with Isles on lead testing. Steve will check on what other local boards of health are doing with respect to local goals related to the CHIP. Gary will look at the Mercer County Health Officers Association and share their goals before our next meeting.
- k. GMPHP June 4 meeting update: Steve was there, similar to the September joint BOH meeting discussion.
- l. Traffic Safety plan: Still need an update from John Valenza but Steve will also check with GP.
- m. Louis Creek group presentation: Mariya will followup.
- n. Other – Board of Health website – post *Feeding Deer* note on our website. Marjorie will send to GP and Betty Sterling for posting.

VI. Board Member Updates / New Business

- a. Joint Board of Health meeting recap – GMPHP CHA / CHIP, Isles Healthy Homes
- b. Community Facilities and Services Plan: presented to Steve by Andy Jackson in his role on the planning board and environmental commission (possibly) we should review this information on the master plan. One of our goals for 2026 could be better communications with Office of Emergency Management and Planning Board for example so we have a sense of what we should review or have input on.
- c. Board vacancy replacement: Steve Papenberg has resigned his position on BOH effective December 31, 2025 due to personal issues and he has identified at least one person to join the BOH and will make a recommendation to the Mayor.
- d. 2026 Budget Request Forms: only need to fill out other expenses on this bc contract for the Township and Borough has been taken care of by Boro Council. In past we only ask for \$95 for Local Board of Health Membership and we will continue for this year.
- e. Council Updates – J. Valenza – Council member Valenza was absent from our meeting.
- f. Reorganization Meeting date for January 2026 will be January 13, 2026 at 6:15 pm at Pennington Borough Hall.
- g. Rabies Clinic hours for December 2026 – Gary has gotten feedback from animal control officer that the 3rd hour of the clinics is not needed, and we would like to minimize the imposition on the local veterinarians who devote their time to these clinics throughout the Valley. In January Gary will bring us results of clinic attendance by hours this year to ascertain if indeed there needs to a three hour clinic vs a two hour clinic.
- h. Other – Stever reported that an animal (groundhog or opossum) that had been acting strange in town was euthanized by police and disposed of by public works. Q was since it was acting strange what is the policy of contacting animal control to have it tested for rabies? Gary will discuss with animal control officer if what was done in this situation was correct, if not, Gary will reach out to the Pennington Police Dept to correct behavior.

VII. Health Department Updates

- a. Monthly Activity Reports

- b. Staffing & grant updates: New grant: Strengthening local public health grant from the State Health Dept. Federal CDC \$ given to the NJ DOH makes awards to local health departments. We received \$70,000 , in past these grants used to be over \$400-500K this funding focuses on communicable disease outbreak response. Also Health Dept has sustaining local public health grant thru NJACCHO focuses on salaries, equipment updates report on this to NJACCHO.
- c. Other - none

VIII. Public Section-none

IX. Adjournment

Marjorie Kaplan motions to adjourn, Mariya Brown seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.