



# TOWNSHIP of HOPEWELL

MERCER COUNTY

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*Also Serving Hopewell Borough & Pennington Borough*

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### FINAL MINUTES

## PENNINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

**TUESDAY, January 13, 2025 – 6:15 p.m.**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

I. Call Meeting to Order / Statement of Proper Notice

**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

Vacant, Chair ( ) Mariya Brown ( X ) Katherine Fellman ( A ) Marjorie Kaplan ( X ) Ronald Suzuki ( A ) Dan Rubenstein, Borough Council Liaison ( X ) Gary Dorsi, Health Officer ( X ), Gail Cooksey ( X )

III. Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag

IV. Officer Elections

Mariya Brown nominates Marjorie Kaplan to be Chair and Gail Cooksey seconds the nomination.

Marjorie Kaplan is elected unanimously.

Marjorie Kaplan nominates Mariya Brown to be Secretary.

Mariya Brown is elected Secretary unanimously.

V. Minutes Submitted for Approval – October 21, 2025

Mariya Brown nominates approval of the minutes and Gail Cooksey seconds the motion.

Gail Cooksey abstains as she was not on the Board when it last met. The motion passes.

VI. Old Business

- a. Environmental Commission Survey: (see old minutes) Chair will follow-up with Council.
- b. Landfill Redevelopment Plan we just keep this on the agenda in case anything is upcoming.
- c. NJLBHA / PHACE is still working on approval for local public health priority funding.
- d. Board / Commission Chairs Meeting with Council: At last Joint Boards of Health Meeting we heard from the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership, CHIP is in finalization, Gary will send the link for all PBOH members to sign up for the mailing list.
- e. Local Emergency Planning Committee – rail safety. CSX is responsible for the integrity of the bridge. Gary has not gotten response from CSX and Gary has reached out to the OEM Coordinator who has not been back in touch. Structural integrity of the bridge and cement spalling off the bridge (these can be remediated with netting). Dan will bring it up at the Council meeting and Gary will follow up with CSX.

- f. Lead paint testing product: Gary will send Marjorie the Isles testing flyer and Marjorie will talk to Betty Sterling about posting this to our website. Marjorie will also discuss with Betty the schedule for the quarterly newsletter and ensure we have a schedule for submissions. We agreed we will do an awareness on Lead for the next quarterly newsletter.
- g. Municipal Alliance / Opioid Settlement Fund (Check with outgoing Chair)
- h. GMPHP
- i. Traffic safety plan (Check with outgoing Chair)
- j. Other -

VII. Board Member Updates / New Business

- a. Gary will send everyone the BOH Manual and will highlight issues at the next meeting for Board orientation
- b. Marjorie will reach to NJLBOH to ensure current members of Pennington BOH on the mailing list
- c. 2026 meeting schedule
  - i. 1/13/26
  - ii. 3/10/26
  - iii. 6/9/26 (Gary is going to propose a lunchtime meeting to accommodate Dan who will be overseas, Gary will ensure we notice ahead of time)
  - iv. Joint BOH is 9/9/26 at Hopewell Twp Auditorium
  - v. 10/20/26
- d. Board of Health goals (check with outgoing Chair to find out what he may have learned about other LBOHs are doing, look into a survey/community conversation about what the issues are of concern, maybe have a draft questionnaire to work on).
- e. Marjorie proposes a goal for this year and Gail Cookey seconds that our goal for this year will be to: Conduct an assessment of community priorities with respect to health and be responsive to the community by facilitating outreach and education. Motion passed unanimously.
- f. Lewis Creek group presentation: Mariya to meet up with Dr. Andrews, Pennington School class that performs water tests of LC.
- g. Board of Health website updates: Marjorie will reach out to Betty to ensure that our website links to the Hopewell Twp Health Department.
- h. Liaisons to other Boards and Commissions
- i. Council Updates
- j. Other -

VIII. Health Department Updates Gary went over the December Activity Reports

- a. Monthly Activity Reports: November ER visits for Influenza, COVID and RSV. Influenza and COVID affected majority older population and RSV under age 4 years. Adult health clinic vaccine services available thru Hamilton Twp for homebound vaccines. See report for full information.
- b. Gary discussed Emergency Response and various MOUs we have.
- c. Marjorie will ask Borough Administrator GP who performs the AED audits for Pennington; Hopewell Twp Health Dept does the AED audits for Hopewell Twp.
- d. Gary discussed food inspections and has a goal of conducting food safety training.
- e. Gary discussed animal control, rabies control.
- f. Gary discussed health education for township health department.
- g. Gary discussed rules about inspection of food vendors at local events and that candy is considered a food for consumption and places that hand it out are considered retail food establishments under state chapter 24 of the NJDHSS Food and Drug Safety program and subject to jurisdiction of the Health Department.
- h. Gary discussed one lead investigation that was closed.
- i. Staffing & grant updates

j. Other – Sr. Services Coordinator in Township, Gary's staff liaises where there are health related concerns.

IX. Public Section

X. Adjournment

Mariya Moves to adjourn and Marjorie seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:15 pm.