

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015

Present: Board of Health members: Lindle Willnow, Susan Wilfahrt, and Health Agent Leslie Whelan.

Meeting Opened: Lindle Willnow called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at Hamilton Senior Center

Public Hearing – Septic Access Cover Regulation

The Board had discussed the Septic Access Cover Regulation several months ago and received comments from the public. The public hearing was for public comments on the proposed updates to Septic Access Cover Regulation. There were no public comments at the hearing. Lindle Willnow moved that the Board of Health adopt the amended Title 5 and Supplemental Regulations for subsurface disposal sewage updated to reflect new access cover regulations. Susan Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Discussion – TB Regulations Update

Health Agent Leslie Whelan reported that she had received comments from Public Health Nurse Christine Lee on TB Regulations and Lee will review latest update. Discussion ensued about need for Board to review this rendition before communicating with school nurse leader. Size of childcare settings were addressed that include home-based. These organizations will provide parents with a TB form. Licensed day care businesses are required to have copies of participants' vaccination records. Discussion addressed when responses on the form would necessitate a parent to bring a child to medical provider for TB test. The provider could then determine if the patient was at a high or low risk for TB and recommend next steps including TB testing and documentation.

Also mentioned was if a school has 250 students or more a registered nurse has to be on staff. This person would be enlisted by the public health nurse to run a TB clinic. The public schools have staff registered nurses. The Board will need to provide education for the schools and daycare facilities who require parents to fill out TB forms. Early detection or confirmed cases of TB will be reported to the Department of Public Health. Even if young people have latent TB they would be treated. HIPAA law would prevent any schools or daycare centers from sharing any patient information. Discussion ensued about how the Board of Health can mandate that students have skin or blood tests

within 14 days if a positive response is contained on a form. There is a free TB clinic at Salem Hospital.

Discussion addressed how patients that previously had a positive TB test do not have to be retested. These patients would have been exposed to TB infection but might not have active TB. Anyone with a new positive TB test result should see a PCP or visit a clinic. Active TB patients will be prevented from attending daycare or school or other group activities and public events or using public transportation. Discussion was on public health pamphlets that are available from the Center for Disease Control.

Discussion reiterated how schools with 250 or more students should hire a licensed practical nurse (this will be confirmed with Lee about whether or not an RN is required) part time or on call to provide care and health education on site, vet paperwork and maintain health records and files relative to the TB regulation, and monitor that vaccinations are complete according to Mass. law and that any necessary next steps are taken. Health Department has not heard any more from GCTS on the TB matter.

Discussion – FY16 Budget

Discussion ensued about public health nurse hours being increased from seven to 10 hours a week. The flu vaccine revolving fund is growing due to health insurance reimbursements for vaccinations. Discussion addressed how a need assessment will be done relative to shingles vaccine (\$220 a vaccination) and if a clinic would be held for people who have insurance or ability to pay (Medicare does not pay for it). The inoculation is only given one time for people 60 years old and older.

Discussion – Styrofoam and Plastic Bags Update

Discussion addressed how Wilfahrt and Gretel Clark have been meeting once a month with approximately 10 people interested in helping relative to a warrant article for spring Town Meeting. The warrant closes on March 2. The Board proposed meeting on the topic again with the Selectmen on February 17. Wilfahrt will correspond with Clark about her availability and Whelan will speak to Town Manager Michael Lombardo about getting on the Selectmen's meeting agenda. Also to be done is an update to by-law to include expanded polystyrene and polypropylene used for disposable extruded food service containers. Whelan will ask Town Counsel Donna Brewer what degree of technical definition would be required or if generic terminology can be used. Effort is underway to survey businesses that use plastic bags and ultimately assess community awareness on the issue. Discussion addressed one-hour commercial movie "Bag It" and effect of plastic bags on the environment that will be shown at the HW Public Library.

Discussion was on need to hold public hearings by February 2 and if advertisement has to be placed in the newspaper two weeks before or if 48 hours' notice would meet the requirement. The Board proposed holding a public hearing on January 28 at the Senior Center at 7 p.m. The HW Chronicle is going to do a series on the Styrofoam and plastic bags topic and Clark will send a letter to the editor.

Discussion – Bat Houses and Mosquito Control

Whelan reported that the Board had received two invoices for homemade bat houses from independent contractor (\$45 and \$60). The \$300 funding received from the HW Recreation Department will not cover the cost of these houses and ordering two additional commercially made bat houses (\$80 each), two mounting poles (\$120), mounting hardware, adhesive and paint so the budget is short by \$130. Whelan will correspond with HW Recreation Director Sean Timmons on shortfall with intent to get the boxes installed by the spring.

Whelan mentioned the exclusion forms from residents relative to mosquito control and spraying that are due on March 1. Notice is on the Town's website. The forms have to be sent to the Town Clerk's office via certified mail. Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens calls all residents who had an exclusion last year. Discussion ensued about if Gloucester had any success receiving a lower cost from Mosquito Control since it has requested that no spraying occur in the city.

Discussion – 540-568 Bay Road (Made Pony Place) Preliminary Subdivision Plan Review

Discussion ensued about creating physical systems (sidewalks) making it easier for people to walk relative to subdivision approval. Whelan reported on her site visit with developer Tom Ford and their discussion relative to perambulating and equestrian use. Discussion addressed correspondence between Whelan and Ford relative to location of septic systems and proposed lots near Bay Road. Each septic system in the subdivision will have to be approved by the Health Department. Once a preliminary subdivision plan is approved by the Planning Board, Ford will submit a definitive subdivision plan.

Discussion – Patton Homestead Senior Housing Development – Special Permit Application

Discussion ensued about letter that Whelan had written relative to proposal for an easement and work with ECTA for public pedestrian access to the trails on the Patton

property where proposed houses are to be located and for the Green Meadows Farm trails that are part of ECTA trails. She provided comments from the Health Department to the Planning Board on the special permit application.

Resignation of Karen Zagorski (Board Member)

The Board received Karen Zagorski's resignation in November. Selectmen will mention the Board vacancy at its upcoming meetings. Whelan will ask Town Manager Michael Lombardo if a notice for the position should be put in HW Chronicle.

Review – Minutes dated October 15, 2014

Willnow moved to approve the minutes as presented. Wilfahrt seconded the motion.
VOTE: Unanimous.

New Business

Discussion ensued about five out of 12 women that worked at Town Hall who have had breast cancer over a six-year to 20-year period and if there was anything related to this occurrence in the Town Hall building. The Board needs to understand the numbers more to determine next steps. It was noted that cancer risk goes up with age.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 8:58 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meetings will be on Wednesday, February 25 and Wednesday, March 25 at the Senior Center. A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, January 28 at the Senior Center.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation