

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 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 7:03 p.m. at Hamilton Senior Center

Discussion – TB Regulation Update

The Board reviewed draft regulation that included input from Town Counsel Donna Brewer and Lindle Willnow and provided comments to Health Agent Leslie Whelan. Discussion addressed where a school nurse would be needed (i.e., 250 or more students) and when there is a licensed medical director for daycare organizations to review forms and vaccination records. Also addressed was how a baseline is established for positive or negative TB assessment results when there are students going on missionary trips or people are traveling for a month or longer in another country since these populations are considered higher risk.

The Board agreed that at a minimum awareness should be raised (i.e., GCTS and how TB could be contracted, and additional screening of student population engaging in school related trips that are longer than a month where there is increased risk of exposure to TB). Also addressed was risk assessment and potential for screening.

Discussion ensued about whether or not a licensed medical provider or educated personnel was enough in schools with fewer than 250 students. Whelan will ask Public Health Nurse Chris Lee what she hears or needs to know as part of TB surveillance.

Also addressed was the process where a school nurse receives an assessment form with positive questions about TB symptoms and when a medical provider fills out a TB assessment form. Discussion was on screening recommended by DPH at colleges and universities for students at enrollment, (and GCTS is not following) where positive TB screening is more actively seen. Staff at these institutions would be assessed at hiring. Discussion addressed sending the TB regulation to high schools, colleges, and post-graduate institutions. The Board of Health will have a public hearing on the regulation.

Discussion – The Movie “Generic Roulette”

The Board tabled this discussion since Lee was unable to attend. The movie is about genetically modified food.

Discussion – Styrofoam and Plastic Bags Update

Susan Wilfahrt updated the Board about how she, Whelan and Gretel Clark attended recent Board of Selectmen’s meeting where 3 out of 5 Selectmen were present and 2 out of 3 members expressed support of the proposal to ban Styrofoam and one-time-use plastic bags in Hamilton. Selectmen agreed to put proposal article on spring Town Meeting warrant.

Discussion ensued about how plastic bags burned in an incinerator still introduce toxins into the environment (i.e., via depositing in a landfill and could leach into groundwater). Twenty-five of 26 businesses in Town surveyed did not foresee any issues with the proposed ban including CVS, Dunkin’ Donuts and Crosby’s since they have dealt with this in other communities. Surveying Hamilton’s merchants on the matter was generally positive with some planning on contacting suppliers about alternatives. Selectmen were pleased that grass roots effort on the proposal had included significant outreach to community businesses. Next step is creating a five minute or shorter Powerpoint presentation for Town Meeting which will be reviewed by BOH via email to provide feedback before next Board meeting on April 1. Also, trailer for “Bag-It” movie might be included after presentation depending upon timing.

Discussion – Mosquito Control Update

Discussion ensued about surveillance as reason for Town to remain in Mosquito Control District even if spraying is not occurring. Also addressed was how conversation should continue with Senator Bruce Tarr about possibility of municipalities in the future being able to pay for services provided (i.e., surveillance, larvaciding) rather than an assessed overall fee. Also mentioned was how chemical used for spraying kills bees and could cause colony collapse.

Discussion – Board Member Vacancy

Announcements have been made about the Board member vacancy and Chris Lee has heard of someone interested.

Signature Required – Septic Access Cover Regulation

The Board signed the regulation.

Review – Minutes dated January 21, 2015 and January 28, 2015

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

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 8:32 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.
The Board's next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 1 at the Senior Center.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation