

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016

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

Meeting Opened: Lindle Willnow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Hamilton Senior Center

Discussion – 38 Old Cart Road Building Permit Approval

Health Agent Leslie Whelan explained that she had recused herself since Eric Burgess, homeowner of 38 Old Cart Road, was present for building permit approval and he may be building her house. Essex Health Agent Erin Kirchner had reviewed the building permit.

Burgess described his project for a three car garage and master bedroom above it. To ensure this doesn't increase the bedroom count at his house he will put a hallway through the current master bedroom into the new addition. The current master bedroom will be converted into a large walk-in closet with access through the new bedroom.

Burgess noted that Kirchner had recommended a deed restriction as part of the building permit application based on the septic system size. His house has a fourth bedroom in the basement. There will not be a gym and office included in the plan. Discussion ensued about how the new egress through the existing bedroom makes that space no longer private for sleeping or classified as a bedroom.

Lindle Willnow moved to accept the building permit application and associated four bedroom deed restriction. Susan Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Discussion – Mosquito Control – Appeal to Not Spray Pesticides Letter

Discussion ensued with Gretel Clark, resident beekeeper, about a letter she had sent to the Board of Health regarding her appeal to not have Northeast Mosquito Control District spray pesticides in Hamilton. The BOH policy is to reserve the right if there is a significant outbreak (i.e., West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis) in extreme conditions to request spraying. Town Meeting had voted for Hamilton to participate in the Mosquito Control District. This could possibly be addressed at a future Town Meeting via a hold on Town budget or a citizens' petition encouraging the Town to no

longer participate in Mosquito Control District. Discussion addressed if spraying from a truck was effective and how red maple swamps like those found in Hamilton are not sprayed. Also mentioned was the health consequences from EEE and that other viruses (i.e., zika and chikungunya) are going to eventually come to the U.S. and that the public needs to be educated.

The Board noted the value of the mosquito surveillance that the Mosquito Control District does in Town which identifies when mosquitoes are carrying disease. The Mosquito Control District also helps with drainage control (i.e., ditch cleaning at Howard and Linden Streets at an additional expense) and larvaciding with a biologic which is most effective way to reduce mosquitoes. Discussion addressed whether or not the public works department could be trained to do larvaciding or if a registered pesticide applicator is needed to do the job. The BOH acknowledged that there would be an additional cost for Hamilton to train staff to larvacide.

The Board suggested that research could be done to gather data on Hamilton participating in the MCD relative to benefits, risk and cost. The Health Department annually puts a notice in the newspaper as required by the state to remind residents if they do not want spraying to occur near their property to notify the Health Department. There was suggestion that the notice could explain what residents can do to protect themselves from mosquitoes without spraying, and that the Board of Health does not intend to spray for routine positive results. The Board noted that it would not feel comfortable leaving the MCD without input at Town Meeting.

New Business

Discussion ensued with the father of Alexis Chase, 265 Cutler Road, relative to getting a wetland study done at the horse farm. The resident needs to provide documentation requested to the Health Department staff (Whelan will review) and resident would have to attend a subsequent BOH meeting to discuss variances.

Discussion – Christine Lee – TB Regulations Update

The public health nurse will attend a future Board of Health meeting.

Discussion – Board of Health Member Vacancy

Discussion addressed how Board members had spoken to individuals they know to assess if there was interest in filling the Board of Health member vacancy.

Health Agent Update

The Health Department has emailed a reminder to all establishments that would be affected by the plastic bag/Styrofoam by-law with information on what alternatives can be used since the effective date when new practices have to be adopted is July 27, 2016.

Discussion was on how the BOH could assist the Acord Food Pantry with campaign to receive donations of recyclable bags and paper bags so the food pantry can cease supplying patrons with plastic bags. Also, Senior Care uses Styrofoam trays for its Meals on Wheels program. The BOH could write a regulation on variance procedures to the by-law. However, the Board noted that there are alternatives available to Styrofoam trays. The Board was informed about "enviro-sheets" which are thin film plastic and are not currently covered by its by-law. The BOH will address these situations on a case by case basis.

A consultant will provide the BOH with 30 minute training at its May 25 meeting relative to whether the Town will adopt the FDA Food Code 2013 regulation. This training would also be given to food workers in Town.

At the May 25, 2016 meeting the Board will consider changing its tobacco regulations to state that only people 21 years old and older can purchase tobacco and nicotine delivery products. As well as restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products except for menthol since the flavors are geared towards children. These actions are also being considered by the state and if Hamilton makes the changes it would support statewide effort. A public hearing would not be required for the BOH to make these changes but it could be considered.

The Health Agent has been working with the Health Inspector regarding repeat offending food establishments and if these establishments should be charged a re-inspection fee. The agent and inspector are developing a policy on how to deal with offenders. This could include four inspections a year versus two times a year for repeat offenders.

Also discussed was an email where the Board is being asked to endorse November 2016 election ballot initiative regarding preventing cruelty to animals. This will be addressed at the May 25, 2016 BOH meeting.

Other topics reviewed by the Health Agent with the Board included a mission statement where Whelan will suggest improvements, interest in revising keeping of animals application to make it easier for applicants, that a presentation on zika virus

will occur in Rockport in July and Town officials will be invited, and that Whelan will work on creating a local septic inspector license.

Discussion addressed the Board's meeting dates as: June 29, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, and December 7 at the Senior Center. There will be no November Board meeting date.

Approval – Nomination of Animal and Assistant to Animal Inspectors – Jennifer Gibson & Anne Jackman

Willnow moved to approve the nomination of Animal Inspector Jennifer Gibson and Assistant Animal Inspector Anne Jackman. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Review – Minutes dated January 20, 2016

Willnow moved to approve the January 20, 2016 Board minutes as presented. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 8:40 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 25 at the Senior Center.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation