

## HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2014

**Present:** Board of Health members: Lindle Willnow, Susan Wilfahrt, Karen Zagorski, Health Agent Leslie Whelan, and Public Health Nurse Chris Lee.

**Meeting Opened:** Lindle Willnow called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall

### **Chris Lee (Public Health Nurse) – Semi-Annual Update & TB Regulation**

Chris Lee reported that on May 15 an active TB case was identified at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. This individual was sitting in class with several classmates over three or four weeks and the active case was discovered after that time. The person spent time at Beverly Hospital and Shattuck Hospital.

Lee asked GCTS if it had been screening students for TB since the population consists of a large percentage of missionaries who travel to endemic countries to improve health of residents and return to Hamilton. Exposure occurs from eight hours of droplet exposure to a person with active TB who is coughing. She notes that when the active TB case was discovered GCTS had not been following the state recommendation for TB screening. Discussion ensued about how the Seminary should follow the Mass. Department of Public Health guidelines (once a student is entering the Seminary or is returning from a mission that person has to answer a risk assessment). This is not mandated by GCTS.

Since Hamilton's Health Department did not know how many people at the Seminary had been exposed to TB it held a clinic on June 4 and an email was sent to 108 cases that were exposed to the active case (the state provided serum for this number) and 50 people responded due in part to seniors graduating and summer session had started. The incubation phase was 10 to 12 weeks so another clinic was held on July 16 to offer retesting. Lee is hosting another clinic on September 17. An email was sent to cases and some did not come to any clinics but reported to Lee their negative screening results. Lee noted that she will be contacting 60 people.

Discussion ensued about how TB can spread, many participants in the two clinics had not been out of the country and screened negative at the first and positive at the second clinic. After a positive result is received, the person gets a chest x-ray and typically is put on a six month course of antibiotics.

Lee provided details on the seminarian with active TB case who had previously tested positive for TB in 2008. The person took the medicine for three months and stopped prematurely which created a drug-resistant strain of TB. This individual sat with classmates while having an active case of drug-resistant TB. This individual was subsequently treated by physician with antibiotic for cough and illness symptoms where a course of antibiotic was administered with no change in condition. The person was admitted to hospital and treated with INH and put in negative flow room. Currently Lee reported that the person has been compliant with drug treatment therapy as she has observed him swallowing pills. The active case's family also was treated. Once this person's TB result was negative after a few of tests he was allowed to leave the U.S. and visit Korea.

Lee described how she had plans to do a flu clinic at the HWRHS this fall but her efforts have focused on the TB at GCTS. The Seminary has agreed to do a risk assessment with incoming students on September 8 with 600 individuals. Discussion ensued about how the Health Department would like everyone at GCTS including children to be screened in January. Also, GCTS does not have a nurse or infirmary and students go to their own physicians to get a risk assessment completed but it is not known how the GCTS implements this assessment process. Whelan will review document on TB detection for colleges and work with the dean of admissions.

Discussion ensued about details of the risk assessment which is completed and signed by a physician. Also once screening is done if a positive result is identified followed by a chest x-ray that does not show any evidence of TB there is no mandate to require the individual to take antibiotics. The Board suggested that the decision on what should be done with patients with positive or negative results should be the responsibility of the Seminary (i.e., mandate an appointment at TB clinic).

Lee also reported on cases of campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, influenza, Lyme disease, and salmonellosis in Hamilton. She recommended an educational seminar be held on actions residents can take to lessen risk of Lyme disease. In addition, flu clinics have been scheduled for Wednesday, September 24 at the Senior Center for anyone under 18 years old, and Wednesday, November 12 both held from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. For the next year's flu season the state plans to provide four-part series vaccine for the population aged 18 and under. Local pharmacies and physicians are providing vaccinations for the population over 18 years old. Also mentioned was two successful drills done with the Emergency Shelter team and the team has a one-page description of job duties.

Discussion ensued about water fluoridation where Lindle Willnow said the negative health effects that result from lack of fluoridation outweigh the negative effects of fluoridating public water supply. Discussion addressed if Health Department should review and monitor the dosage currently being used in Hamilton (i.e., recommended dose is .7 parts per million).

Discussion was on how the Board of Health would draft a regulation with input from Town Counsel Donna Brewer relative to mandating TB screening in Town. Also mentioned was what the Board of Health can do to ensure that risk assessment is done for more than Seminary students and includes their families, and if this should apply to public school children in grades K-12 through the use of a pediatric assessment form completed by physicians, as well as the importance of educating the public on TB.

### **Discussion – Septic Access Cover Regulations**

Discussion ensued about sections 4.2, 4.4, and 4.5 of the regulations, addressed light weight metal covers that were not designed to have bolts but fit into a lip as well as covers with bolts that have to be attached and safety grate installed, if possible. Also noted was when a system is pumped and cover is found to not be in compliance, the pumping company would notify the homeowner via providing a copy of the pumping report. Whelan has recently reviewed the latest version of these regulations with Dan and Chuck Johnson. Willnow moved that the Board of Health approve the revisions to the Title 5 Supplemental Regulations as amended. Karen Zagorski seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

### **Discussion – Plastic Bags & Styrofoam Take-Out Containers Draft By-Law**

The Board provided Whelan with amendments to proposed by-law (i.e., durable, non-toxic material for reusable bags) that she will review with Town counsel and check if Chapter 157 reference is specific to Marblehead's related by-law language. Willnow moved to accept the proposed by-law to put forth at the next Town Meeting. Susan Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. Whelan will inquire about process related to the Board of Health creating regulations for the by-law especially relative to required procedural hearings.

### **Discussion – Bat Houses**

Willnow reported on proposal for pole-mounted bat houses with 2 houses per location; one pole at Patton Park and one at Donovan field. For a total cost of \$480 for houses, post and pole mounts that will be presented to Recreation Director Sean Timmons.

**Discussion – Mosquito Protocol**

Discussion ensued about how legislation that controls Mosquito Control District does not allow a municipality to just purchase mosquito surveillance without spraying and Whelan will research what the cost of spraying alone would be if it was allowed as a separate charge.

**Review – Minutes dated July 30, 2014**

Willnow moved to approve the July 30, 2014 Board meeting minutes as amended. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Willnow moved at 8:45 p.m. to adjourn. Zagorski seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday, September 17.

**ATTEST:**

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation