

## HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

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

**Meeting Opened:** Lindle Willnow called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall

### **TB Regulations**

Health Agent Leslie Whelan provide the Board with bullet points from Department of Public Health document relative to adults and pediatrics. Discussion ensued about conversation that Public Health Nurse Chris Lee had with DPH relative to how Hamilton's Health Department should be requiring the TB risk assessment form for students and TB test be done (i.e., at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary). The state recommends that colleges follow its guidance document about using the form and doing TB testing. Whelan suggested that the Board of Health require that GCTS follow the guidance document and use the form and insist that high risk students be tested. The guidance document specifies that form should be completed and any potential testing should be done at matriculation when students enroll for school (once in four years).

Whelan and Lee concur that at a minimum annually the form should be completed at the start of every academic year and every student must fill out the form. If the form indicates an increase in risk for TB then require further evaluation as indicated. Instead of at matriculation, discussion would involve requiring the form at the start of the academic year and whenever a student is aware that they now have an increased risk.

Also, that the Health Department should require that GCTS has a student health service (it does not have one currently). This service should be staffed appropriately to review the forms, advise students about their risk and conduct the TB skin test if the student has not already done that with their doctor. Discussion ensued about whether or not GCTS was required to have a school nurse. The requirement for student health service (i.e., nurse) would apply to the HWRSD schools (this is already occurring), GCTS and Pingree School.

Also addressed was whether or not the preschools in Town should be required to have a school nurse especially relative to TB exposure that occurs from eight hours of droplet

exposure to a person with active TB who is coughing. If this would be based on a certain number of students. It was reiterated that GCTS does not have a school nurse.

Discussion was on the need for the Health Department staff to reach out to other organizations to ensure the regulation is done correctly including contacting DPH to understand if there are other municipalities in the same situation as Hamilton and requirement for schools to have student health services.

It was noted that the GCTS has been cooperative and Lee held another TB testing clinic at the college today. There was discussion between Health Department and GCTS personnel about the proposed regulation and related requirements. This should be clarified with the college as soon as possible due to importance to GCTS and the community.

Discussion addressed rather than requiring the TB test be done by a school health services, students could have it done with their physician versus a school nurse. A school would be required to do the TB test if the test has not already been done for a student or that student does not choose to use their primary care physician. Also mentioned was whether or not educators and other staff should be required at the start of the academic year to complete risk assessment form or testing since they may also travel or if this should be required when they are hired.

Discussion was on how regular practice of testing every student entering college for TB has changed to testing only those at increased risk. Whelan offered to contact the DPH to find out more information.

### **Discussion – Bat Houses and Mosquito Control**

Lindle Willnow had sent a revised proposal to install bat houses at some of the Town's parks to the Joint HW Recreation Board for its consideration. Recreation Director Sean Timmons had said that he could move forward with this proposed expense for the bat houses for approval by Recreation Board. Willnow offered to follow up with Timmons who will update Whelan.

Whelan reported on meeting at the State House with Senator Bruce Tarr with her counterparts in Gloucester. This was relative to discussion on how the Mosquito Control District (MCD) operates since some municipalities are interested in purchasing mosquito surveillance services separately from bundled services (i.e., which can include spraying). Findings from the meeting will be brought back to the City of Gloucester.

Discussion addressed how Town Manager Michael Lombardo had inquired about what services the Town is receiving from MCD if no spraying is occurring. MCD provides Hamilton with surveillance, larvaciding, and some ditch clearing to assist water flow. Discussion was on how the Board has decided not to spray for mosquitoes unless there is a reason beyond more than a positive test found during surveillance. It was noted that truck spraying is ineffective unless there is a grid of housing and roads for spray to reach front and back yards, and what is the relative risk to insects (i.e., bees) and humans. The closest West Nile Virus carrying mosquito found this year was in Peabody.

### **Discussion – BOH Office Relocation**

Discussion ensued about how Town is filling Planning Director position and Town Hall management is proposing using the private office used by Health Agent and Public Health Nurse for that position. Management has proposed when these Health Department individuals need to have private discussions they could use space in the basement of Town Hall. Willnow suggested the private office space on the second floor could be used for Town Hall staff generally for private discussions. Also mentioned was how poor acoustics upstairs at Town Hall and noise from other conversations can be disruption to work productivity.

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

Discussion ensued about proposed by-law for plastic bag reduction and prohibiting use of polystyrene containers. It was noted that the proposed by-law is patterned on by-laws from Marblehead and Manchester and has been reviewed by Town Counsel Donna Brewer.

Susan Wilfahrt reported on her meeting with the Selectmen on this matter where that board was interested and had suggested by-law be postponed until spring Town Meeting with an informational presentation at fall Town Meeting. Also, that Gretel Clark expressed support and has resources to potentially help with initiative.

Discussion ensued with David and Barbara Sherman about their Leominster Refoamit business that recycles any form of expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam) #6 into new products. It uses collection days where municipalities pay the company for its services (\$250 to \$350 for a filled 30 yard trailer that Refoamit typically picks up every 30 days). Refoamit does not recycle polypropylene #5. Also, no municipalities currently recycle Styrofoam curbside, and some have banned use of Styrofoam in their communities. If

Hamilton were to consider this form of recycling the public works director would be contacted to arrange for container, collection days and container pick up.

Discussion was with Ed Howard, 10 Meyer Lane about compostable plastic bag liners that could be used with organic recycling and are taken by Brick Ends Farm, and recyclable paper bags as well as reusable bags.

Discussion ensued about if the Board should meet on Wednesday, October 1 at 7 p.m. to work on short presentation for fall Town Meeting on proposed by-law for plastic bags and Styrofoam take-out containers. Karen Zagorski will be notified.

**Review – Minutes dated August 19, 2014**

Willnow moved to approve the August 19, 2014 Board meeting minutes as amended. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Willnow moved at 8:44 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday, October 15.

**ATTEST:**

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation