

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015

Present: Board of Health members: Lindle Willnow, Susan Wilfahrt, Health Agent Leslie Whelan and Public Health Nurse Chris Lee, Wenham Board of Health members Chair Gerry Donnellan, and Dr. Andrew Ting, Wenham Public Health Nurse Maribeth Ting, HWRSD nurses: Joanne Hobbs, Jessica Baker, Tammy Smith.

Meeting Opened: Lindle Willnow called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at Hamilton Senior Center

Public Hearing – TB Regulation

Discussion ensued about Board of Health creating TB regulation in response to situation at the Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary where there was a latent TB case and students were exposed. Health Agent Leslie Whelan and Public Health Nurse Chris Lee had actively worked with GCTS to screen, test and treat students. The regulation was drafted in consultation with state Department of Public Health and with information from Center for Disease Control. Feedback was received from those agencies on the BOH regulation.

Discussion addressed how the Mass. DPH suggested the BOH's TB regulation include information similar to DPH recommendation that all students from pre-K through college would have a risk assessment done and if they are found to be high risk then TB testing would occur. Conversation occurred with HWRSD nurses about how a risk assessment form would have to be completed for all students and how this practice should be done uniformly in Hamilton and Wenham. The Hamilton BOH's suggestion was to provide the risk assessment form to all students since students from both Hamilton and Wenham attend the HWRSD schools. Also noted was if a pediatrician reports on a physical exam form that a HWRSD student is low risk for TB this would be acceptable. TB risk assessment would be done at student enrollment and when new school staff is hired.

Discussion was on trips that students take out of the country for one month or longer and how they should be required to complete a risk assessment form when they return to Hamilton or Wenham. This process could include notification to parents of students where families are taking a trip or visiting country of origin. Discussion with nurses was about how they would manage the additional work outlined in the TB regulations

relative to risk assessment and whether or not this would be done with existing students or new students including the 60 to 100 students coming to the HW Regional High School as freshman every year.

Discussion ensued about TB incident that occurred last summer at GCTS with a foreign born student that had a latent TB case from 2008 and enrollment in the seminary was in 2015. Public Health Nurse Chris Lee reported that many more latent TB cases were identified when screening was done at GCTS where these individuals did not know they had latent TB. She emphasized importance of people being educated that the test would give them knowledge about whether or not they have latent TB.

Dr. Andrew Ting, Wenham resident and Wenham Board of Health member as well as a former physician at Gordon College, noted that institution required a TB risk assessment every year on its health form. Ting opined that Hamilton's regulation was a good place to start especially with risk assessment at enrollment. He concurred with the importance of public education on the matter. Also, that medical providers in the area (that should be educated about Hamilton's TB regulation) would apply assessment tools on annual basis and that majority of students/patients would be low risk. He agreed that high risk individuals should be identified as quickly as possible and educated about screening/treatment services available. Ting also stressed importance of Wenham aligning with Hamilton and HWRSD on this matter. Gerry Donnellan, Chair Wenham Board of Health, agreed.

Discussion ensued with HWRSD nurses about if a letter would be sent from Board of Health to community health providers relative to TB assessment documentation on a student's physical form. Also mentioned was that BOH does not expect the school nurses at public and private schools in Hamilton and Wenham to fill out the risk assessment form, it would be completed by a medical provider rather than a student's parent, and become part of the enrollment package. The BOH will work with local media later in the summer to communicate that risk assessment form would be included in student's school forms.

Also discussed was how there are not school based health centers in the public schools. The Board of Health will seek clarification as to whether or not a school nurse can sign a student's health form as a medical provider or if a physician has to complete the form. It was noted that kindergarten students are already enrolled for the upcoming year in HWRSD so this would be a post enrollment notification for parents. Discussion addressed how there is no administrative support for medical staff in HWRSD so there is no enforcement mechanism if the risk assessment forms are not submitted. The Board considered using the next year to educate public and school officials about the public

health issue, TB regulation, and associated risk assessment form for students. The BOH's goal is to avoid previous incidents (i.e., GCTS student) and raise awareness about TB. Whelan will ask Jo-Ann Keegan at Mass. DPH for an opinion on if a school nurse could sign off on TB risk assessment form and qualifications for a school-based health center.

The BOH noted that all nurses at HWRSD and Pingree School had seen the draft TB regulation and had an opportunity to provide feedback. Lindle Willnow moved that the Board of Health adopt the Tuberculosis risk assessment and testing regulation for schools, colleges, and universities in Hamilton, Mass. Susan Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Discussion ensued about BOH needing to provide post-secondary students with requirements of the regulation for fall 2015 enrollment. Also, that there will be further enrollments in the HWRSD (i.e., choice students and students coming to the district in the summer). The concept of a BOH letter to go to HWRSD students as part of the enrollment package written with input from school nurses was reiterated. The BOH thanked Whelan and Lee for yeoman's work on TB regulation.

Discussion ensued with Wenham health officials where Wenham Public Health Nurse Maribeth Ting emphasized the importance of TB risk assessment and potential screening for all students. It was noted that all parties affected by the regulation were notified of the public hearing. The BOH had received feedback from HWRSD nurses, and Pingree School nurse but not GCTS. In addition, given that the Wenham Board of Health had posted the meeting and had a quorum present, Wenham Board of Health Chair Gerry Donnellan moved that the Wenham Board of Health adopt the Tuberculosis risk assessment and testing regulation for schools, colleges, and universities in Wenham, Mass. Andrew Ting seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. A final electronic version of Hamilton's TB regulation will be sent to the Wenham BOH.

Discussion – The Movie “Generic Roulette”

Lee described the movie about genetically modified organisms and impact of Roundup ready seed (i.e., corn and soy) products on livestock and field workers, possible correlation between autism, allergies, infertility in people who consume GMOs, as well as crossover of executives at Monsanto chemical company and Food and Drug Administration. There is interest in showing the movie at the HW Public Library, and there has been outreach to Green Meadows Farm (who expressed support) and Appleton Farm.

Hearing – 540-560-568 Bay Road – Made Pony Place Sub Division Definitive Plan

Discussion ensued about how the plan calls for making access trails private to residents in the housing development and whether or not the BOH would support the plan if this is the case. Also mentioned was intent for the Town to take over the private roadway at some point so it would be a public road accepted by Hamilton. It was noted that the DPW Director has issues with the plan that he wants fixed (i.e., alternative to stormwater drainage into infiltration basin in flooded wetland area).

Discussion addressed if there could be an easement from the public Cutler Park to the trail it was felt to be unlikely at this time. In addition, if there would be sidewalks on one or both sides of street. The BOH would make recommendations to the Planning Board on the subdivision plan. Each lot in the subdivision will have a separate septic system with leach field but the BOH has not received those plans yet. The BOH believes strongly in requirements to make trails public and move the location of the infiltration leach field. A tree lawn is provided in the plan but it may not have to be a requirement. Preliminary perc tests have been done with good soils identified on most of the lots.

Discussion – Styrofoam and Plastic Bags Update

Discussion addressed how the Powerpoint presentation on the matter for spring Town Meeting is less than five minutes. The Board has received support from the businesses in Hamilton for the by-law to ban one time use plastic bags and Styrofoam. It is in favor of Town Meeting deciding whether or not Hamilton should move forward with the ban.

Discussion – Mosquito Control Update

Discussion ensued about Town Meeting decision to be part of the Mosquito Control District and how it will decide if it wants the Town to continue its participation. The Board does not recommend removing this budget line item.

Discussion – CPC 2015 Draft Plan

Discussion was on Community Preservation Committee's 2015 Draft Plan and that Committee's interest in getting input from Town boards for future CPA funded projects. The Board has until May 11 to provide feedback to CPC.

Discussion – Board Member Vacancy

The Board spoke with Hamilton resident and retired attorney David Wanger about his interest in serving on the Board of Health. He had served on the citizen's committee to select the Town's police chief. He mentioned that he has had no public health experience. Board explained role of members with flu clinics, septic systems, mosquito control, TB, plastic bags, beavers, and nuisance odors. The BOH agreed to notify the Board of Selectmen about David Wanger's willingness to serve on the BOH and that he should be appointed by BOS to the BOH.

Approval – Nomination of Animal Inspector & Assistant Animal Inspector

Willnow nominated Dyan Katz as Animal Inspector of Animals and Anne Jackman as Assistant Animal Inspector of Animals for one year terms ending April 30, 2016. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. Discussion addressed how there is action afoot to consolidate animal control with other communities.

Review – Minutes dated February 25, 2015

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

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 9:06 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 29 at the Senior Center.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation