

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2013

Present: Board of Health members: Lindle Willnow, Susan Wilfahrt, , and Health Agent Leslie Whelan. Gerry Donnellan, Wenham Board of Health Chair, also present.

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

Covers at Grade Regulation

Discussion ensued about covers at grade regulation that the Board passed a year ago in October. Rockport has a similar regulation and agreement was reached in that community to require medium duty cast iron covers be used at grade. In Hamilton there is consensus amongst the health agent and Board that the regulation should be updated to be more user friendly, more manageable and more easily understood. Lindle Willnow offered to review the regulation to try and simplify it and address some of the contradictions that were identified in the meeting the Board had recently with Septic System Engineer Chuck Johnson.

Discussion – Mosquito Update and Bat Houses

Discussion addressed how another mosquito carrying West Nile Virus was identified in Hamilton and that a mosquito carrying Eastern Equine Encephalitis was identified in Topsfield two weeks ago. Also noted was that a 72-year-old resident in Salem had contracted WNV. The Board mentioned how Hamilton is now classified as moderate for WNV. Discussion was on indication of first frost as ice on the ground and how it would reduce amount of mosquitoes.

The Board discussed how the Health Department has mostly received positive feedback about the Board's position not to spray for mosquitoes in Town. Also addressed was if bat houses placed at public parks and school grounds could help control mosquitoes. A man in Amesbury builds bat houses for \$35 each. Willnow suggested a call could be made to Dawson's hardware store to assess availability and pricing of bat houses. The Board and Health Agent Leslie Whelan agreed to investigate with Recreation Director Sean Timmons and BOH Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens if there is any budget money to pay for bat houses.

Also mentioned was possibility of Amesbury fellow conducting workshops for the Recreation Department teaching residents how to build bat houses, and/or the Town could purchase some bat houses from this person.

Discussion ensued about toxicology of spray used for mosquitoes relative to bee colony collapse. The Board also addressed how spraying may reduce the burden of mosquitoes but the lack of effectiveness versus potential risk needs to be considered. Also mentioned was that a toxicologist in Boxford had called Whelan regarding Hamilton's choice not to spray for mosquitoes. He mentioned issue regarding the toxicity of active ingredient in spray. Discussion addressed use of larvacide in catch basins.

In addition, the Board was notified that Wenham Board of Health had agreed to pay its fair share for the cost of municipality organized flu clinics. The Board noted that this agreement should be in writing.

Chuck Johnson – 27 Savoy Road Variance

Discussion ensued with Chuck Johnson regarding a septic system at 27 Savoy Road that failed Title 5 inspection due to groundwater. Johnson described the treatment system that is proposed for the site. He also explained his request for variance includes 4' to seasonal high water table, setback for the leaching field to foundation from 20' to 10' and variance to the regulation where three manhole covers at grade would be fiberglass rather than medium weight cast iron and use of a safety grate.

In response to questions from the Board and Whelan especially addressing a child falling into system, Johnson explained that the fiberglass covers would be bolted, a safety grate would be used, and that a Grade 2 wastewater operator would be the only one permitted to open the system once a year. He stated that cost, aesthetics and function were his reasons for requesting the use of Orenco fiberglass covers (these weigh 25 pounds each). Johnson estimated that the cost differential to use mid-weight cast iron covers (these weigh 75 pounds each) could be as much as \$1,000 more for materials and labor.

Discussion addressed how cost differential versus aesthetics would not be a consideration for the Board to grant variance approval. In addition, the Board mentioned that it is revisiting its regulation to clarify it and reduce possibility for interpretation. Also mentioned was that for this type of non-conventional system a professional maintenance contract would have to be provided before a septic

installer was given a permit to construct the system. Willnow mentioned that if the variance was granted, it should not be construed as a precedent.

Willnow moved that the Board grant the variance based on requirement of an annual maintenance contract. Susan Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

The Board discussed how the requirement for the maintenance agreement could be a possible change included in the regulation.

Discussion – Review of Land Use Meeting

Willnow summarized what occurred at Land Use meeting regarding as many as three septic system studies having been done in the downtown and that a consultant would be hired to analyze sewerage need in the area if there was going to be possible development.

He also mentioned proposal from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary about affordable apartments that could be built on land sold by the seminary to a developer at the corner of Miles River Road and Bridge Street.

Other topics raised during the meeting were the Rich family's interest in developing a portion of their large parcel off of Maple Street, discussion about moving the area where housing would be located on the Patton Homestead property, and proposal for Canterbrook property to build four to five single family houses while maintaining the commercial horse operation. A special permit would be required for the Canterbrook project. The Board noted that Canterbrook representatives should attend a Board of Health meeting to clarify pending project details.

Discussion – Health Agent Update

Discussion ensued about Patton Park pool meeting that Willnow agreed to attend on Monday night, September 30. Discussion addressed how publicity is being done along with fundraising to raise money to redo the pool. The Board noted that the Town's choice of pool designer or consultant would not necessitate an additional specialist consultant to be hired to assess type of septic system (pump or filtration) that would be required if the facility is upgraded.

Whelan notified the Board that her hours had increased from 10 to 12 per week. Also that flu clinics coordinated jointly with Wenham are scheduled for October 9 and 30. In addition, Whelan noted that there is a new system for tracking immunization. She also mentioned that she was taking vacation from November 15 to 28 and that she would find someone to cover in her absence. Also noted was the LUA for 120 Miles River Road where the variance was for reduction to groundwater from 4 feet to 3 feet.

Another topic addressed by the Board was the report of people living in a tent on Forest Street where the Town manager had been looking into a social service solution for appropriate housing.

Review – Minutes dated August 21, 2013

Willnow moved that the Board approve the minutes as amended. Wilfahrt seconded the minutes. VOTE: Unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 9:00 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday, October 30 at 7 p.m.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation