

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009

Members Present: Lindle Willnow, Susan Wilfahrt, Karen Zagorski, Health Agent Leslie Whelan and Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens.

Meeting Opened: 7:35 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall

Discussion – Flu Clinics

Health Agent Leslie Whelan will meet tomorrow with the Superintendent of Schools Marinel McGrath, school nurse leader and Wenham health agent to discuss what the schools and Board of Health would do in regard to the seasonal flu vaccine and H1N1 swine flu.

The North Shore Cape Ann Emergency Preparedness Coalition has a database of volunteers that could be used. This organization has staff that helps write plans, recruit volunteers and run CORI's on them. Volunteers have not been needed for the flu clinic held in Town by Partners. Recently retired administrative assistant Gail Messelaar did assist with that event. It is likely the school would need volunteers. Karen Zagorski noted that George Connelly from the local pharmacy could possibly volunteer.

Susan Wilfahrt said the seasonal flu vaccine would be available early this year followed by a swine flue vaccine that is targeted at the young.

Whelan plans to speak to school principals about hand washing and cough etiquette with emphasis on hand washing for students before they eat lunch. She thought there was one school nurse per school. A school nurse usually decides if a student should go home sick. Also addressed was the importance of hand sanitizer stations in the school buildings. It is known that some are located in the high school.

Whelan will find out if there are any policies on school closure and if the school representatives are aware of the Center for Disease Control and state guidelines. At this point schools would be kept open and emphasis placed on sending sick children home.

Also to be determined is whether or not a letter would be sent out to families from the health agent and school department describing flu symptoms and when children should be kept home from school. There is a state form that describes this and it was sent home to school children's families last year. It could be sent home again in the fall.

Discussion – Ground Water Reduction Requests for Septic System Upgrades

Lindle Willnow said he was fine with the current process where Whelan describes specific ground water reduction requests to him when they come into the health department. He mentioned that in some cases he would want to review the plans.

Myopia Hunt Club Project Update

Whelan said the forced main for a septic system project at Myopia Hunt Club is being sleeved since it is within 200' of the Miles River. Whelan has observed photographs and reviewed project updates from the club. She has visited the site every two weeks. Willnow said he would get up-to-speed on pressure distribution systems.

Sign/Attest Regulations for Hiring Outside Consultants

This was reviewed and approved by the Board at the last meeting. Members needed to sign the regulation so it could be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Payroll Delegation Form

This form designates Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens to sign the payroll.

Willnow to be sworn in by Town clerk

The Town clerk will swear in Willnow because he has been appointed to a new term beginning at the start of the fiscal year on July 1. He previously was completing the term of Stephen Druschel who resigned from the Board when he moved out of state.

Sharps Disposal

Stevens will investigate if the used sharps that were dropped off at Town Hall could be disposed of during the Hazardous Waste Day sponsored by the Town on September 12.

Partners assistance at flu clinic

Whelan said Partners would help the Town with its seasonal flu clinic and will send information including a contract. However, it is not interested in vaccinating the school age population. Partners is deciding whether or not it would do H1N1 vaccinations. The seasonal flu clinic would probably be held at the end of October for the elderly.

Names for organization chart for emergency dispensing plan

Zagorski has made inquiries. Job descriptions and how existing Town employees (i.e., fire chief and chief of police) could be used will be discussed at the Board's next meeting. The Board wants to understand the plan better to decide how to best use volunteers and Hamilton employees.

Mosquitoes

Whelan reported on her discussion with Walter Montgomery from the Northeast Mosquito Control District. There are two traps in Hamilton where the district collects mosquitoes twice a week. Species are examined and tested for diseases that the mosquitoes carry.

There are also traps along the New Hampshire border that collect mosquitoes that carry Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). EEE more frequently occurs in New Hampshire and southern Massachusetts. Hamilton did have a positive EEE mosquito a few years ago. If EEE is found in the traps along the New Hampshire border, similar traps will be placed in Hamilton and Boxford.

Wilfahrt said this season there has been an influx of wet weather mosquitoes but they are not the species that carry EEE or West Nile virus.

There was brief discussion on when spraying is considered especially as a barrier application around ball fields and how abutters can object to mosquito control spraying.

The catch basins in Town have been treated with a natural based larvaecide and the district treats smaller wetlands near populated areas.

Beaver Control

Stevens agreed to speak to DPW Director John Tomasz about contacting Steven Kavanaugh in regard to beaver control to be done around Hamilton in the fall.

MOU w/Beverly Hospital

Assistant Town Administrator Allison Jenkins hasn't reported back with any comments from the Selectmen.

Review and Approve BOH Minutes – 7/22/09

Willnow moved that the Board accept the July 22, 2009 minutes without amendment. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Willnow then welcomed Nancy Stevens to the health department as the newly hired administrative assistant.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 8:15 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday, September 23.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen
Town Clerk

Planning Board
Conservation