

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012

Members Present: Lindle Willnow, Karen Zagorski, and Susan Wilfahrt. Health Agent Leslie Whelan, Public Health Nurse Kim Paskalis and Health Inspector Roberta Cody also present.

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

Kim Paskalis (Public Health Nurse) – Semi-Annual Update

Kim Paskalis gave her Public Health Nurse Activity Update for June through December 2011. She addressed disease surveillance, investigation and prevention. Currently there are no urgent cases. Mass. DPH released a clinical advisory on a new influenza strain that will be monitored at the schools. Seasonal influenza is having a normal outbreak nationwide. Routine follow-up is occurring with Giardiasis, Salmonella, Staphylococcus, Streptococcus, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B and Lyme disease.

In regard to Emergency Planning and Preparedness, Paskalis is part of the Hamilton Shelter Team, overseen by Fire Chief Phil Stevens, where meetings are held regularly with a focus on establishing mission, command and organization structure. Paskalis is also working on the training plan for shelter volunteers and regional planning with the NSCAEPC, CAEPT and MRC.

Paskalis is the nursing supervisor for the Town's flu clinics. A total of 428 people were vaccinated during three events held this year including two with Wenham and one coordinated with school nurse Joanne Hobbs for High School staff.

Looking ahead to next year's clinics consideration will be given to increase efficiencies while still using student nurses to vaccinate. Also possible is a family clinic at a different venue (i.e., Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary).

Hamilton's health department has been approved for Medicare reimbursement and billing contracts are in place with UHealth Solutions, Inc. and Public Sector Partners that receive 10% of payments collected. Most flu clinic participants have insurance. Revolving account is in place for these payments.

Wenham has taken lead to complete required Emergency Dispensing Site drills.

Other items addressed by Paskalis were that Dr. Hugh Taylor is serving as medical director for Hamilton; collaboration is being done with school nursing services on clinics, emergency preparedness and surveillance. She is working with Council on Aging Director Susan Carp on TRIAD safety program to protect senior citizens from fraud and scams.

Police Chief Russell Stevens is assisting to provide secure storage areas for vaccines and shelter supplies at dispensing site in Meeting House building.

Also mentioned was Health Needs Assessment with Northeast Health Systems. Both Paskalis and Health Agent Leslie Whelan have completed Mass. Responds Administrator training. Discussion was about health department letter on emergency preparedness and Susan Wilfahrt's interest in serving on Medical Reserve Corps.

Review – Draft Mutual Aid Agreement

Discussion was about Town Counsel Donna Brewer reviewing draft mutual aid agreement. Fifteen municipalities are interested in participating in agreement. Board of Health makes a recommendation to Board of Selectmen who sign agreement on behalf of Hamilton. A Board of Health member would also sign agreement.

Lindle Willnow moved that the Board of Health recommend that the Board of Selectmen approve and sign to become part of the mutual aid agreement. Karen Zagorski seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Roberta Cody (Health Inspector) – Semi-Annual Update

Roberta Cody presented her semi-annual report on 200 health inspections she does a year in Town at the food, retail, school, church and farm establishments as well as caterers, mobile, seasonal and one-day events, day camps and pools. Number of one-day events has been a logistical challenge.

This past year there were multiple inspections required at 15 Walnut food establishment due to closing, renovation and reopening. Complaints had been received about Hamilton Convenience Store. Outsourced food service at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary is excellent. Moving forward inspections of churches including Christ Church will address full breakfasts being served.

Discussion was about review of completed camper medical records requiring many inspections at Pingree School summer camps.

Four pools in Town each have certified pool operators. If new Patton Park pool is constructed a lift for users with disabilities is required. Discussion was about possible donation of lift in existing Town pool to Asbury Grove to assist with compliance as public pool.

Rules about complying with food laws have been emailed to educate road race event coordinators. Also, Groton House Farm on Highland Street is having food inspections done during equestrian events.

FY 13 Budget Review – Health Inspector’s Hours – Possible Increase

Discussion about Town increasing health inspector budget by 71.88% annually to 275 hours at \$35 an hour from \$5,600 to \$9,625 a year to complete health inspections where most occur at food establishments, day camps and pools.

Review – Board of Health Minutes dated October 11, 2011

Board discussed amendments to the minutes.

Willnow moved the Board accept the October 11, 2011 minutes as amended. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Discussion about schools being granted permission two times by health agent to spray chemicals to address bee emergency problem, and denied permission two times, relative to schools’ pest management plan. Board of Health thought school maintenance staff did not need to use heavy, duty chemicals for purpose.

Health agent will contact schools offering to assist with pest management plan as well as review language regarding mosquitoes and seek language from Esteban Cuebas-Incle at North East Mosquito Control for inclusion in plan.

Also addressed was unknown status of \$35 payment owed Town for Keeping of Animal/Barn Application by 494 Essex Street resident.

Other business

Discussion was about rat problem in downtown Hamilton where dead rat was seen on Mill Street and a number of live rodents have been seen in nearby resident homes and basement of apartment building. Two groups of residents have complained about issue.

The problem may have started when new Acord food pantry building was reconstructed and when Hansbury building was demolished forcing rodents to relocate. Discussion was about importance for residents to keep food out of outdoor compost piles, and need to secure bags of pet or chicken food and pet water supplies. Health agent will monitor and evaluate if necessary.

Discussion about Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Corporation having complied with Department of Environmental Protection's October 31, 2011 deadline to decommission and fill in abandoned septic systems at three to five cottages.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 9:06 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday, February 15 at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation