

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015

Present: Board of Health members: Lindle Willnow, Susan Wilfahrt, and Health Agent Leslie Whelan. Richard Boroff, Gretel Clark, Charlotte Lidrbauch, Barbara Parker, Beth Myers also present.

Meeting Opened: Lindle Willnow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Hamilton Senior Center

Public Hearing – Styrofoam and Plastic Bags By-Law

Susan Wilfahrt summarized purpose of public hearing relative to intent of Styrofoam and plastic bags by-law to minimize impact on environment from single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam and encourage use of reusable plastic bags and other choices for takeout containers (i.e., recyclable and compostable). She noted that if multiple municipalities adopt these practices that could encourage the state to do so as well. She said the hope is the Hamilton by-law will pass at spring Town Meeting.

Discussion ensued about how Hiltz takes Hamilton single stream recyclables to a transfer station where another entity recycles further. It was noted that the plastic bags that make it into the recycling process cause complications with recycling machinery. Hamilton had previously done dual stream recycling and realized revenue from recycled paper and cardboard but that market is variable. The Town pays by the ton for solid waste and recycling hauling. There is no tipping fee for recyclables but it costs Hamilton \$74 a ton to dispose of solid waste. The Town is trying to minimize solid waste so this is why Hamilton is using single stream recycling which boosts a municipality's recycling by 15%. The Town's organic recycled material goes to Brick Ends Farm.

Discussion was on economic impact to Hamilton businesses if there was a switch to alternative bag materials. Wilfahrt reported that cost to do this was minimal according to Manchester restaurateur. A poll was done of seven Hamilton downtown businesses who responded that there would not be an issue if this by-law and accompanying practice were adopted in Town; many are already using alternative sources. Discussion addressed how this practice is already being done in Manchester and Marblehead where paper bags are being used and some businesses are donating to charities when patrons use reusable bags.

Discussion ensued about BOH attendance at BOS meeting on February 23 to discuss this proposed by-law. On Wednesday, March 4 the "Bag It" movie will be shown at the Hamilton Wenham Public Library at 7 p.m. Also addressed was if the by-law is adopted at spring Town

Meeting how it will take effect in 12 months to allow businesses to use up stock of plastic bags. Discussion was on how aggressive the Town wanted to be about use of plastic bags (i.e., dry cleaning bags would be exempt). The Board of Health tried to incorporate the best information from Manchester and Marblehead by-laws into Hamilton's proposed by-law. Also mentioned was how the proposed by-law would be publicized via letter to the editor, a newspaper article in HW Chronicle and Salem Evening News, possibly online Patch, on Town's website, and through HWRHS recycling group. Discussion ensued on polypropylene cups being used by Dunkin Donuts as an alternative to Styrofoam and if these cups can be recycled. Discussion was about citizen group involved in this issue not being an official Town committee and how it could hold meetings at resident homes and whether or not it would post meetings.

Meeting Adjourned:

The public hearing was closed at 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation