

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010

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

Meeting Opened: 7:34 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall

Discussion – Peter Britton, Brick Ends Farm (residents complaining about odor)

Discussion was on intensity of odor from Brick Ends Farm that is bothering neighbors in Sharon and Bradford Roads area. Residents expressed concern about what is being put on Britton's land and if it could be getting into the ground water as well as the large number of trucks going in and out of the farm property.

Britton runs a composting operation at his farm. He has an agricultural composting permit from the Department of Agriculture that allows composting of food and vegetable waste that he receives from supermarkets and cafeterias. This includes gelatin as well as Type 1 food grade material and meat by-products. He does not take materials at his site that the permit does not allow.

Brick Ends Farm no longer takes sewage sludge from Rockport. There are no activities at the farm that involve the application of human waste.

Britton wants to stay within the purview of the Board of Health. He agreed to turn the compost piles when there is a favorable wind to reduce transmission of any odors. He will also pursue using enzyme agents used in the past to help solve the problem. Britton will refrain from taking additional material (i.e., from new commercial customers) until the situation is resolved.

He agreed to only open the gate at the beginning of his driveway from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. so trucks can deliver or take material from the farm.

The Board of Health said Britton was running his farm within his rights and had been in contact with the health department to take steps to correct the odor problem bothering neighbors.

Any environmental impact issues with drainage from the composting area could be taken up with the Town's Conservation Commission. If this isn't their purview, the

resident group could contact the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Agriculture.

The Board of Health encouraged the residents to notify Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens via email about how they can be reached to receive updates from the Board on steps taken to resolve the situation.

The health department said Britton wants to be a good neighbor and is running a business within his agricultural permit parameters. Board members agreed that it would behoove them to be more informed about what occurs at Brick Ends Farm.

Discussion – Mosquito Control BMP & VMP

Discussion was on the plan the Northeast Mosquito Control District follows for the Town. They notify Hamilton if they find a mosquito that tested positive for West Nile virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis. The district uses a biological agent, larvacide, in Hamilton's catch basins. It is a parasitic bacteria that kills mosquito larvae. The high amount of rain this spring could effect the mosquito populations in Town.

Discussion – Economics of building a wall for septic systems

Lindle Willnow will look into the economic impact of requiring a rock or cement wall to be built for a septic system to meet distance to ground water separation requirements; it could be \$5,000 to \$7,000. The Board has received many requests for variances to distance to ground water from septic system engineers seeking system plan approval. The Board doesn't want to rubber stamp plans when considers granting these variances.

Review – Pre-application conference for developing Canterbrook Farms

Willnow will attend an informational meeting on April 13 regarding a proposal for senior housing development at Canterbrook Farm.

Approval – Nomination of Assistant and Inspector of Animals

Willnow moved that the Board nominate Dyan Katz as Inspector of Animals. Susan Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Willnow moved that the Board nominate Anne Jackman as Assistant Inspector of Animals. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Review and Approve – BOH Minutes

Willnow moved the Board approve the minutes as written with the date changed to 2010. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Discussion on Paul Ricker having filed paperwork with language for deed restriction for 73 Lake Drive.

Discussion on how health department wants to handle flu clinics in the future, whether to use the public health nurse and other supporting nurses versus Partners Healthcare. There are 1,000 flu vaccines remaining for this year's clinics. Health department is waiting to hear from state about what to do with them. The vaccines have an expiration date of one year from now.

Board member Karen Zagorski has volunteered to answer health department phones and cover for Stevens while she is on vacation for two weeks in August.

Health Agent Leslie Whelan told the Board that as a result of a meeting with public safety personnel on emergency plans the Board of Health's refrigerator at Winthrop School would be moved to the public safety building where there is a generator for electricity backup during power outages.

Also, the Department of Public Works is interested in purchasing an electronic signboard. Whelan said the Board of Health has emergency preparedness money to contribute \$5,000 to the \$13,000 cost. This could be used for a public health emergency (i.e., complications with Hamilton's water).

In regard to the 100/700 series tests, Willnow will email details to the Board members.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 9:50 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting is on Tuesday, May 11.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen
Town Clerk

Planning Board
Conservation