

## HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015

**Present:** Board of Health members: Lindle Willnow, Susan Wilfahrt, and Health Agent Leslie Whelan.

**Meeting Opened:** Lindle Willnow called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at Hamilton Senior Center

### **Mark Lampert Boden – Application for Permit for the Keeping of Animals - Fees**

Mark Lampert Boden spoke to the Board of Health about Animal Inspector Dyan Katz inspecting his farm/barn, expressed concern about her doing inspection by herself and without him present and associated liability. He wanted to be present to answer questions from Katz (i.e., that plastic coated wire in water tanks was installed to prevent roosters and drakes from drowning other fowl in deeper water). Also, the barn doors were left open after inspection and animals were out when he returned home. Boden has three goats, six rabbits, four geese, 12 ducks, and 20 chickens including 8 roosters. Boden mentioned impact on such animals from fisher cats, coyotes, and foxes found in Hamilton.

Boden recommended that Katz should be doing inspections accompanied by someone else (i.e., agricultural school intern). Also mentioned was the Town's fee for registering rabbits at \$10 per rabbit and that this would make rabbit production prohibitively expensive. Discussion ensued about how Katz had reached out to Boden via a phone message stating that in the future she would notify him when she plans to inspect his farm. The Board agreed that Whelan would speak to Katz about Boden's suggestions. The Board thought Katz could determine if she wants to do inspections independently but concurred that property owners interested in being contacted ahead of time about upcoming inspections should be notified.

Discussion addressed regulations for small animals (i.e., rabbits, poultry and other similar animals), and Keeping of Animal permits issued by the Hamilton Board of Health for horses, goats, other large animals or when 10 or more small animals are kept. The Board of Health discussed when a permit would be required relative to fee of \$5 for 10 or more poultry and considered if the fee of \$10 per small animal could be changed to the \$5 with 10 or more of a mix of small animals. The Board agreed to amend fee structure to include rabbits as small animals.

Discussion was on KOA permit as well as stable permit, and that Katz records her inspection notes to report to the state number of animals located around Town. She also identifies locations in Town where animals are living and whether or not a KOA permit does not exist (i.e., at the Boden farm). The Board suggested inquiring with Town Counsel Donna Brewer regarding Town and Animal Inspector's liability. There was mention that Katz is likely aware of liability based on state law. Discussion addressed how Katz has identified locations in Town where animals are being kept without permits while doing inspections on neighboring properties. In Hamilton there are area requirements for keeping animals (i.e., 2 acres minimum but sometimes variances are allowed for lots by ZBA and BOH).

### **Discussion – US Public Health Service recommended optimal fluoride level for community water systems**

The optimal fluoride level for community water systems recommended by US Public Health has been lowered from 1.2 ppm to 0.7 ppm. Lindle Willnow moved that the Board of Health recommend the DPW lower the fluoride dose to 0.7 milligrams per liter. Susan Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous. Willnow opined that fluoridation is a public health benefit. Discussion was on 2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report and Consumer Confidence Report including average 1.08 ppm of fluoride used in Hamilton.

### **Discussion – TB Regulations Update**

Whelan is meeting with Public Health Nurse Chris Lee monthly and has answered questions from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary regarding steps to implement TB regulations. GCTS will notify foreign students entering the seminary this fall from certain countries that they will be required to have a TB test. This will also apply to these students who have children in the Hamilton and Wenham schools. GCTS will be hiring a nurse and might share that professional with other area schools. Whelan will pass on any similar questions to those received from GCTS to Lee as part of implementation phase of regulations. Lee has met with the public school nurses so she is likely to be receiving questions directly from them.

### **Discussion – Mosquito Control Update**

Whelan is working with DPW to purchase posts, paint, etc. from one of the Town's vendors. The public works department will assist putting together, painting, and installing bat houses. Discussion ensued on case of chikungunya virus in Essex County, and that the mosquito carrying the virus is migrating northward from the Caribbean.

**Review Minutes dated May 27, 2015**

Willnow moved to approve amended minutes. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

**Other Business**

Selectman Bill Wilson is liaison to Board of Health and has expressed interest in BOH topics and getting copies of board minutes.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Willnow moved at 8:05 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 26 at the Senior Center.

**ATTEST:**

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation