

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2013

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

Meeting Opened: Lindle Willnow called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall

Christine Lee – New Public Health Nurse Introduction

The Board welcomed Christine Lee aboard as Hamilton's new public health nurse. Lee noted that flu clinics have been scheduled for October 9 and 30 at the Hamilton Senior Center. She had met with Fire Chief Phil Stevens and there is consideration of doing an emergency shelter drill which may occur with other nearby communities.

Discussion ensued about how former Public Health Nurse Kim Paskalis had presented her work to the Board every six months. Lindle Willnow suggested Lee review Paskalis' reports that he offered to email to Health Agent Leslie Whelan. Lee will be asked to present a report in next six months.

Lee explained that she is working with the Mass. Epidemiology Network relative to tick borne illness and the education behind risk and exposure. She is also serving as a public health nurse in Essex where a shingles clinic will be held on September 19 and the injections cost \$200 a piece (the State is not paying for this) and reimbursement will be done through patient's insurance or self pay.

Discussion ensued about whether or not BOH members were members of the Medical Reserve Corps. Whelan explained how Susan Wilfahrt could register in the Massachusetts registry of MRCVF via maresponse.org. Lee noted that she had joined the Mass. Public Health Nurse Association and these nurses volunteer for clinics. She noted that volunteer nurses are from MRC, MAPHN Association and Care Delivery Work Group.

Discussion addressed whether or not there was a prognosis about the upcoming flu season. Lee noted that consideration is being given to having families complete a form when a child is home sick so flu cases could be tracked in the schools. Whelan said nurses at the Care Delivery Work Group meetings report on types of illnesses that are causing children to be sent home from school.

Discussion – All Land Use/Selectmen Meeting on Sept. 4 regarding downtown septic

The Board discussed topics for the All Land Use/Selectmen meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on September 4 including downtown septic upgrades, cottage bylaw and Town bylaw revisions. Willnow said he planned on attending and Wilfahrt noted that she could possibly attend but was on call that night.

Discussion ensued on the septic studies that have been done downtown relative to possibility of using Bob McCrae's property for a shared system if it was acquired by the Town. Willnow thought a consent decree from DEP would be needed to put a downtown septic system in place. Discussion addressed if a downtown septic system were done each individual using it would pay a betterment fee. Whelan noted if sewer system is available relative to state law, then individuals who could be tied into such a system would not be required to do so until their existing septic systems fail.

Whelan said she has been getting questions on this matter from Hamilton's Planning Coordinator Kristine Cheetham and Whelan had recommended the Town hire a consultant. Board members discussed how the Jolie Tea shop downtown could not expand due to septic system constraints and noted that the Hamilton dentist on Railroad Avenue had a tight fit accommodating its expanded system at its site.

Discussion addressed how Selectmen are looking for opinions from Town boards at the land use meeting. Willnow said the BOH opinion is that Hamilton should hire a consultant. The Board noted that a downtown septic system would be expensive, would likely require a Town Meeting vote and necessitate bonding.

Whelan explained that she had recommended to Cheetham that one way to get buy-in was to identify a parcel and figure out what flow a treatment system could handle with people voluntarily using system for a certain cost. She said if enough people use it then it would not be cost-prohibitive. Willnow said this is a first meeting and there would be many subsequent meetings. He offered to call Selectman Scott Maddern who is the BOH liaison.

Discussion – Mosquito Update

Discussion ensued about how as of last week no virus carrying mosquitoes have been found in Hamilton but there have been occurrences in surrounding communities (i.e., Salem and Saugus).

Discussion addressed how the Health Department's statement on spraying for mosquitoes was published in one of the local newspapers. Also mentioned was whether or not the Board of Health had voted not to spray for mosquitoes unless conditions became far more serious. Willnow noted that if virus carrying mosquitoes are found that is not enough to warrant spraying. Karen Zagorski noted that Asbury Grove residents and other members of the community are interested in spraying if virus carrying mosquitoes are found.

Discussion ensued about contingent of population in favor of the Town not spraying for mosquitoes. Willnow agreed with Wilfahrt that there has not been any evidence that spraying for adult mosquitoes reduces disease in humans. Zagorski was interested in the Town having Northeast Mosquito Control spray for mosquitoes if people in Hamilton want it.

Willnow referred to his April 2 Board meeting notes regarding Board agreement not to spray for mosquitoes unless something unusual happens. Willnow restated his concurrence with the Board's position on spraying and said if we have virus in mosquitoes this year we wouldn't spray like we did last year.

Board discussed how if virus is found notice would be given to residents citing that spraying would not be done and that people need take personal protection. Willnow noted that last year the Board felt pressure to spray because they had not researched the impact or effectiveness prior to last season. He and Wilfahrt suggested that spraying could give people a false sense of security and noted that it does not get rid of all mosquitoes. Wilfahrt added that spraying might be effective for killing mosquitoes but may not be effective for reducing disease. She reiterated the importance of people taking their own responsibility in the matter.

Discussion ensued about how Whelan and the Health Department are receiving reports on Fridays from Mosquito Control about whether or not virus carrying mosquitoes have been found in Town. Willnow reiterated the Board's position to not spray immediately upon receipt of a positive finding of mosquitoes carrying virus in Hamilton. Notice would be sent out to the Town residents and if it

became more serious it would warrant a special meeting of the Board of Health to determine further action and address issue of spraying.

Willnow said the circumstances where spraying would occur is beyond where Hamilton is now especially in consideration of the fact that there are two mosquito traps in Town. Discussion ensued about the location of the traps and if that is static. Whelan noted that once mosquitoes carrying virus are found in Hamilton, Mosquito Control increases its sampling sites.

Whelan noted that she gave a presentation at the Senior Center two weeks ago on mosquitoes with 15 people attending. She addressed personal protection and how to eliminate standing water in the vicinity.

Discussion ensued about how virus carrying mosquitoes were found in Hamilton last year at the end of August and in early September and spraying was done at the end of September and in early October. Willnow noted that Whelan will keep the Board up-to-date on reports from Mosquito Control.

Review – Minutes dated July 10, 2013

Willnow moved that the Board approve the minutes as amended. Wilfahrt seconded the minutes. VOTE: 2-0-1 with Zagorski abstaining since she did not attend.

Discussion ensued about Local Upgrade Approvals at 7 Lake Drive, 86 Walnut Road and 41 The Circle especially relative to high ground water table.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 8:10 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation