

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

Members Present: Lindle Willnow and Karen Zagorski. Health Agent Leslie Whelan and BOH Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens also present.

Meeting Opened: Lindle Willnow called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall

Public Hearing – To Discuss Proposed Manhole Cover Regulation

The Board and Health Agent Leslie Whelan discussed most up-to-date language for proposed manhole cover regulation relative to requiring cast iron, medium duty covers at grade and if lightweight covers should be allowed with \$20 removable plastic safety grate installed inside on top of septic tank. Whelan explained that the riser, that could be plastic, would be wider than opening of septic tank and the grate is smaller than the manhole cover. She noted that when she reviews septic system plans she calls for metal covers for safety. She mentioned that she has only seen a safety grate in place once.

The Board provided Whelan with amendments to the proposed regulation language in Section 4: Covers at Grade. Discussion ensued about Title 5 inspectors, especially new ones to Hamilton, and the need to raise their sensitivity to groundwater issues in Town. Also discussed was if medium duty covers would have to replace plastic covers and if mortar or mastic adhesive could be used to secure plastic covers. Whelan offered to discuss this matter with installers. Chair Lindle Willnow recommended that the process for securing covers should be spelled out in regulation.

Discussion ensued about changes to required septic sand to be used for fill and vents for pumped systems to make these sections clearer and consolidate information from Whelan and the Board. Willnow recommended this language be included in the regulation and he suggested an explanation be included at the end of policy that defines reason for using effluent filters.

Willnow moved to accept the proposed manhole cover regulation relative to Title 5 requirements as amended. Karen Zagorski seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board agreed that the policy was written well.

Discussion – Mosquito Control Update

Discussion ensued about occurrence of EEE in Georgetown with a horse and person, and if neighboring towns are being classified as critical under state's categories for mosquito samples identified with disease then Hamilton's Board of Health would work with other departments in Town to assess need to modify outdoor events relative to resident participation. Willnow noted that in 2007, the Town sent notices to resident homes explaining that events (i.e., youth sports) would be ending earlier in the evening than usual.

The Board spoke with Whelan about findings of WNV in mosquito samples but that there were no reported cases of WNV in Town last week. She explained that the Mosquito Control District had sprayed the entire length of Highland Street and west of that area.

Also discussed was the hope that reports from MCD on Hamilton's mosquito samples that the Town will receive this Friday would reveal no disease carriers. Board noted that all places sprayed in Town by MCD have not included playing fields. Whelan mentioned that in order for MCD to spray school grounds, HWRSD would have to have an up-to-date integrated pest management plan in place. She has notified director of facilities at school department and the superintendent of schools as well as Town Manager Michael Lombardo about the need for an updated plan.

Discussion continued about how cancelling events would probably be more effective than spraying to protect residents from disease carrying mosquitoes. Willnow noted that Hamilton would have to work with Wenham to address what actions should be taken regarding events to be held at Patton and Pingree parks. He suggested that Whelan notify Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Director Sean Timmons as part of the process especially if spraying were possibly to occur on Tuesday after Friday's notification from MCD.

Whelan mentioned the importance of outdoor temperature relative to spraying effectiveness and that they would have to consider letting MCG spray the parks as well as streets. Willnow reiterated Board's thinking that if a virus carrying mosquito is found in the area, the sports practices would be cut short or cancelled. This would be based on risk factor, Hamilton is presently considered moderate, but if that classification were changed to high or critical then outdoor gatherings would be cancelled.

Discussion ensued about what actions Town would take if it receives a positive report from MCD on Friday afternoon. Willnow recommended that Whelan call him to weigh in on a decision about whether or not to spray and if he could not be reached within 60 minutes then Whelan would make the decision. Whelan noted that she is going to be on vacation on Friday, October 19 and that BOH Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens would receive MCD calls and communicate with one Board of Health member as necessary.

Willnow suggested that the health department also communicate with Bobby Gates at the Patch online news service to ensure accurate information about mosquito situation in Town relative to spraying is disseminated to public.

Also discussed was if BOH could find any reports on benefits of spraying and impact of spraying on bee population where chemical falls on foliage and possibility of bees ingesting it when they are foraging.

Discussion – Health Implications of Bi-Weekly Trash Pick-up Follow-up

Willnow moved to table this item until the Board's next meeting. Zagorski seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Review – Board of Health Minutes dated 8/1/12 & 8/22/12

The Board and Whelan reviewed and provided amendments to August 1, 2012 meeting minutes. Discussion ensued about information from Deb Paskowski in Building Department who said building inspector had seen property for sale on Echo Cove Road where stove had been removed in area on site thought to be an apartment and that real estate listing no longer refers to apartment.

Willnow moved that the Board accept the August 1, 2012 Board of Health meeting minutes as amended. Zagorski seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

The Board and Whelan reviewed and provided amendments to August 22, 2012 meeting minutes. Discussion ensued about if MCD is allowed to spray chemicals to control mosquitoes near wetlands. Whelan explained that she had discussed this with MCD's Jack Card who had said MCD stops spraying when it comes to open water but it does spray wetlands and conservation areas. She noted that she had addressed this topic with Hamilton's Conservation Coordinator Jim Hankin who mentioned Mass. General Law that oversees Conservation Commissions does not apply to MCD work and that there is mosquito exempt language.

Willnow moved to accept the August 22, 2012 Board of Health meeting minutes as amended. Zagorski seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 8:50 p.m. to adjourn. Zagorski seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation