

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2009

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

Meeting Opened: 7:35 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall

Discussion – H1N1/Seasonal Flu Update

H1N1 flu

Health Agent Leslie Whelan has met with the school and Wenham Board of Health representatives twice. Bobbi Cody was introduced to the schools and she is going to help with paperwork.

Whelan hoped to convince the schools to do the H1N1 vaccinations during the school day. After having worked at a seasonal flu clinic in the Rockport schools, Whelan said there was a lot of paperwork and tracking down of details with parents after consent forms came in for their children. This required many phone calls with the school nurse.

In Hamilton, Karen Zagorski said only elementary school children would have parents accompanying students not middle and high school children. Whelan thought H1N1 vaccination clinics could be done after school and on the weekend since this is what the Hamilton-Wenham school department prefers.

If there isn't a good enough response to have school-based vaccination clinics after school or on the weekend, the health department could approach the school department about having a vaccination clinic during the school day. This has not been suggested to the school representatives because Whelan has learned the Town is only going to get 100 dose shipments of the H1N1 vaccine at one time. Hamilton expects a first shipment from the state this week. It is unknown if it will be flu mist or injectible.

Discussion was on how to administer small doses in Hamilton and Wenham. Calls could be made to obstetric and pediatric offices that have high priority patients for the vaccination. Lindle Willnow said doctors' offices are not compiling waiting lists of patients interested in receiving the H1N1 vaccination.

Doses would be targeted for children that are six months old to nine years of age and pregnant women, household contacts for infants six months and younger, household contacts of pregnant women in their third trimester to ensure newborns go home to a safe environment and healthcare workers with direct patient contact. This would include school nurses and healthcare workers in doctors' offices.

If there still is vaccine available, the next level of the target population to receive the vaccine are children and young adults, 10 to 24 years of age, with high-risk conditions. If this and the prior group have been vaccinated then people 24 years of age and younger, adults 25 to 65 years of age with high-risk conditions and all healthcare workers can be vaccinated.

Doctors would have to agree to follow the specifics that Whelan outlined for the Board.

Whelan met with the school representatives today and they were in favor of this process for designated who would receive vaccinations. Doses will be reserved for the six school nurses. The school department will notify the Board of Health about the number of pregnant teachers.

Susan Wilfahrt suggested that Hamilton Family Practice or other applicable doctor's offices in the area could be notified of the vaccine availability so a waiting list could be decided upon for target group patients.

Whelan has heard that the Town should be getting 100 doses every week although she hasn't seen this in writing. Every week the health department is supposed to report how many doses the Town has used and how many the community would like the following week.

Wilfahrt said it would be difficult to run a clinic at one of the schools with 100 doses and expect the nurses to vaccinate the high-risk children first. She suggested the school department communicate with families to assess interest in having children vaccinated at school and to gather information on high-risk children.

Whelan said the school doesn't want to take calls but would post forms on the school website that would have to be completed by parents so their children could be vaccinated at a school.

Willnow said there should be a way to gauge the number of children in kindergarten through third grade in the elementary schools by asking the schools for the information. Whelan said this could help the schools identify what target group to vaccinate first.

The Board did not want to be responsible for policing who gets vaccinated with the available doses. It agreed to give doses to pregnant teachers and school nurses first then the remainder would be given to pediatric/family practice offices.

Discussion on whether or not the school's Connect Ed communication system could direct a call to families with children in specific target populations (children under 9 years old). The Board thought there could be as many as 1800 school-aged children in the regional school district.

Also discussed was that H1N1 flu cases have been identified in the state and some schools were closed.

Whelan said a larger supply of the vaccination is anticipated in January. The school nurses are willing to help the health department with flu clinics after school and on Saturdays. Whelan will get a handle on the required paperwork and protocol with help from her colleagues in other communities.

Compared to other municipalities, there is no public health nurse in Hamilton and Wenham taking the lead on this process since the Town's public health nurse doesn't have the time.

Discussion on how pregnant women and asthmatics cannot use the flu mist nasal H1N1 vaccine.

Seasonal flu

Discussion on whether or not the seasonal flu vaccine should be offered to Town board and committee members during the clinic for teachers and Town employees this year. Partners Healthcare will run the clinic on November 18 at the Hamilton-Wenham High School library. Partners will supply the vaccine at a cost of \$15 per inoculation. The cost would be paid for from the Board of Health budget.

It is unknown if at flu clinics in the past, clinic participants donated funds to cover the cost of the vaccinations. The Board expects there could be more people interested in receiving the flu shot this year. At the clinic last year 110 people were vaccinated. There could be as many as 50 committees and boards in Hamilton. If the clinic were open to all boards and committees there could potentially be 200 to 300 people wanting shots.

Whelan suggested the Board seek approval from Town Administrator Candace Wheeler since the Board of Health's budget may not have the funding to support the number of people anticipated at the Town employee seasonal flu clinic.

Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens said they ran out of vaccine at the second seasonal flu clinic already run by the Town with the help of Partners. People interested in being vaccinated were turned away. Discussion was on how another clinic could possibly be offered to the community.

Whelan explained that there is less money this fiscal year than last year to pay for the public health nurse, Sheryl Knutsen. She is being paid for fewer hours. Discussion was on how the Board could reserve the money for the nurse first and then ask the Selectmen if they would help pay for the Town employee flu clinic. Stevens will rework the numbers to pay for public health nursing time.

The Board thought if people had to pay for the vaccinations if the Town employee flu clinic were open to board and committee members, participants would still be likely to participate.

Cody submitted the request for the vaccine for the Town based on her calculations, said Whelan.

Discussion – Brick Ends Farm Site Visit

The health department received complaints from residents in the Sharon and Bradford Roads and upper Asbury Street area about the smell coming from Brick Ends Farm. Stevens received daily calls three weeks ago. The residents do not identify themselves because they don't want farm owner Peter Britton to know they've complained but they identify the area where they live. Stevens believes residents know one another since calls come in during a similar time period. When this occurs she calls Britton to identify what is happening at the farm. Wheeler also received calls.

Whelan did a site walk and spoke to Britton and his operations manager, Nate. There is an odor at the far end of the compost location. Food from restaurants and food stores is used at the site. A small amount of wastewater residual is being used most goes to Ipswich. Discussion on when the composting material is flipped there is an inversion of warm and cold air.

Britton is concerned about the complaints and has called Stevens when he expects there could be an odor. Stevens offered to visit the site when she gets calls. Whelan said

Britton does try to mitigate the problem. Britton and the residents are divided about how prevalent the smell is. Willnow said if it became really bad the compost area might have to be covered.

Willnow said they should monitor the situation and Stevens should keep a call log.

Willnow noted that the raked material (as much as 10 truck loads) resulting from the hydro raking done at Weaver Pond could be brought to Brick Ends Farm. The Conservation Commission is working on this. The Recreation Board is interested in getting the material removed before the campers return to the park next year.

Discussion – Hamilton Water Quality (Sanitary Survey NON)

The Department of Environmental Protection does a sanitary survey in Town every year. DPW Director John Tomasz is going to take action on the items mentioned in the non-compliance notice. Money appropriated at Special Town Meeting will be applied to the rehabilitation of the filters at the water treatment plant.

Willnow did not know if items related to the water storage tank were addressed. He asked Stevens to get Tomasz's response and action plan.

Discussion on disinfection by-products, more water sampling may be required.

Nomination – Approval of Assistant Inspector of Animals

Willnow moved that the Board approve the nomination of Anne Jackman as Assistant Inspector of Animals for a one-year renewal. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Coverage – Health Agent foot surgery in December

Whelan is having her foot operated on December 22 and won't be able to drive for the following two to three weeks. Wenham's Health Agent Greg Bernard will cover for Whelan on Wednesday afternoons. He can do septic inspections and soil tests. Whelan will continue to review plans and read emails from Stevens.

Review and Approval BOH Minutes – 9/23/09

Willnow moved to accept the September 23, 2009 minutes as amended. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Variance request, groundwater offset – 2 White Road

The Board received a request to reduce the groundwater offset by 1' for the septic plan for 2 White Road off of Lakeshore Drive from homeowners Paul and Jean Fucillo of 6 Birch Lane. Sand fill will be used. No pump will be installed for the gravity feed system.

More leach lines have been added to additional pipes (6 vs. 3) coming out of the distribution box.

This is an environmentally sensitive area near Chebacco Lake. Title 5 requires a 50' buffer to wetlands. There is 97' to the house on the plan. The justification for the request is to prevent the additional cost of a pump chamber and reduction in the cost of 1' of sand (40 cubic yards).

Willnow instructed Whelan to ask Septic Engineer Dan Johnson about increasing the leaching area and ask him how many inches the system be raised. Whelan will speak to Johnson and call Willnow.

Landfill Committee

Zagorski is serving as the health department representative to the Landfill Committee. Willnow said there are potential public health hazards that could result when the Chebacco Road landfill is developed since it was not formerly capped. Manchester has groundwater rights for Round and Gravelly ponds; this is where their water treatment plant is located. He will review documents Zagorski received on the landfill site and email his comments to the Board.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 9:02 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

The Board's next meeting is on Tuesday, November 17.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen
Town Clerk

Planning Board
Conservation