**HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**October 7, 2021**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**Meeting 85620854702**

**Password 798761**

**Members Present**: David Smith (Chairman), Dr. Giselle Perez, and Christopher Small.

**Others Present**: Patrick Reffett (Director of Planning and Inspections) and Dr. Jean Ramsey (Boston University).

This meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by David Smith with a quorum established via Zoom. Roll Call Vote: David Smith (Chairman) - present, Dr. Giselle Perez - present, and Christopher Small - present.

**Discussion**

Dr. Ramsey introduced herself. David Smith offered a history of the three standing members of the Board. Mr. Smith noted that surrounding towns had medical doctors on the Board of Health and thought that Dr. Ramsey would be a wonderful addition to the Board in the future.

Discussion of Regulation of Food Trucks.

David Smith reported that Bobbie Cody, (Hamilton/Wenham Health/Food Inspector) had been struggling with regulating food trucks in the two towns. Food trucks were currently regulated by the State with the State requiring the local health inspector certify the food truck for special events. A food truck vendor asked for approval for their food truck parked in the Sunoco gas station, which was in Wenham and about ten feet from the Hamilton town line. The truck would be parked there indefinitely. Ms. Cody had presented a sample town by-law, entitled a “Hawkers and Vendors By-law.” Joe Domelowicz had suggested to Mr. Smith that a By-law would need to pass the Selectmen and Town Meeting, whereas a Board of Health Regulation could be passed by the Board of Health.

Discussion ensued regarding the fairness of having a food truck, which did not pay taxes, compete with brick and mortar restaurants that did pay taxes and fees. Members discussed that the food truck entity would be competing with drive through or take out restaurants rather than restaurants in town. Patrick Reffett agreed that the mobile food service quality and delivery should be managed by Board of Health Regulations but the larger concern relative to business operations, permanency, and competitions should be managed by the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Select board (formerly known as the Selectmen).

Members would review the Rockport By-law and then hold a joint meeting with the Wenham Board of Health, the Select board, and the Wenham Board of Selectmen as the issue affected both communities. Patrick Reffett would raise the issue with the other three Boards. It was noted that while this was one food truck in Wenham, there would be other food trucks as part of future activities. Dr. Perez suggested seeing what Middleton was doing.

Approve Minutes of 2021 Meetings.

Motion made by David Smith to approve the minutes that have been issued for May 26, June 23, July 27, August 4, August 12, and September 14, 2021.

Seconded by Dr. Perez.

Roll Call Vote: David Smith - aye, Dr. Perez – aye, Christopher Small – aye. Unanimous in favor.

Status report on town-wide COVID 19 vaccination rates and active cases.

David Smith reported that as of September 30, 2021, 930 (75%) eligible town residents had been fully vaccinated and 80% had at least one dose of the vaccine. The target for the town was 80% for both shots. The age group with the least compliance (60%) was in their twenties. Mr. Smith said Rachel Lee had reported new positive cases were 10 to 12 with no notable spikes. The cases were connected with family units.

Members discussed the false positive/negative rates (5 to 50%) from the CVS take home tests. It was suggested that if a false positive was given, a PCR test should be taken. The take home test was not entered into the State’s database. Members discussed if the strong indoor wearing of mask recommendation should be increased to a mandate as winter approached. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education had purview over the schools. The topic would be reviewed as National leadership was lacking. The item would be on the November agenda and the Board might meet with Wenham as children under 12 would attend winter sports in the Recreation Center.

Board Business

David Smith reported that a mosquito with EEE had been found in Wenham and a pool of mosquitoes with West Nile Virus had been found in Hamilton. EEE caused mild symptoms in humans but West Nile Virus caused a more serious reaction. No cases of humans with either disease had been reported. The fall season would limit the likelihood of mosquitoes.

Adjourn

Motion made by David Smith to adjourn at 5:59 pm.

Seconded by Christopher Small.

Roll Call Vote: David Smith – aye Giselle Perez, and Christopher Small – aye. Unanimous in favor.