HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 10, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Memorial Room

Hamilton Town Hall

Bay Road, Hamilton

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

**Others Present**: Dr. Jean Ramsey (applicant for future Board of Health position); Peter Mirandi (consultant for the BoH Director)

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by David Smith with a quorum being established.

**Review and approve the minutes from the April 12 Meeting**:

No minutes were available at the time of the meeting.

**Mosquito Control Update**:

Northeast Mosquito Control entomologist Kimberly Foss was present to provide a comprehensive overview of the Town of Hamilton’s Mosquito Control program. Kim is an entomologist for Mosquito Control and began with an overview of historical events in Hamilton. The 2022 Best Management Practices (BMP) was thoroughly reviewed. No adulticide application would be applied in Town without expressed approval coming from the Director of Health. The only time this activity would be considered is when a pool of infectious mosquitos was determined by a routine trapping method followed by laboratory examination. Surveillance would be the primary activity by Mosquito control. Kim stated that the surveillance trap is located within ½ mile of Town Hall. David asked Peter to check the primary & secondary contact from Hamilton to Mosquito Control. A vote was taken to accept the 2022 BMP and passed unanimously. The Board thanked Ms. Foss for providing a professional overview of services.

**Private well permitting process update:**

Mirandi offered the step-by-step procedure for applicants to follow in order to obtain and install a private well. He stated that this process was refined and documented in collaboration with Health Department Admin, Kerrin Nixon.

**Discussion of 15 Walnut Tavern’s request for temporary outdoor seating:**

Monica Haustein is the general manager of this food establishment. She was present to request additional seating outdoors. The BoH was concerned with additional wastewater flow to the inground sewage disposal system. The Board discussed their concerns. For example, Gisselle requested monthly updates for pumping. It was unclear if the grease trap effluent flows into the soil absorption system (SAS). When requested to comment, Mirandi suggested monitoring water usage through typical Town Water Department metering. David suggested quarterly inspections of the SAS beginning immediately and semi-annual inspections after the busy summer season. After further discussion, a motion to approve the addition of 36 outdoor seats contingent upon inspecting the SAS before the end of May and again before the end of September was made by Gisselle. The motion carried unanimously. As an aside, water use data shall be collected by the Health Director from Hamilton Water Dept. David asked Mirandi to draft an order to approve the request contingent upon increasing inspections of the SAS.

**Public Comment:**

David Frenkel asked to be heard. He is a newly elected School Committee Member and presented a 7-page report in MS PowerPoint format. He feels that Long COVID is a particular concern and suggested using cost-effective equipment designed to measure indoor air quality (IAQ) and this data be used to mitigate IAQ of particular concern to schools. He further requested that the BoH recommend universal indoor masking.

Giselle supported continuation our message to strongly recommend the use of masks indoors but is concerned that the message is not adequate. Christopher suggested that use of language, such as “strongly recommend” is more effective than “encourage” and this term be used to improve the effectiveness of the messaging.

Dr Ramsey asked about how the schools notify families. At that time, Rachel Lee, Regional PH Nurse, offered to clarify the role of the school nurses in the process of notification of families.

The Board agreed to update the Town Website to include clear messaging on the recommendation to wear masks indoor.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business at hand Christopher made a motion to adjourn. It passed unanimously at 7 o’clock.

Respectfully submitted to the Board of Health for consideration.

Peter M. Mirandi, MPH