**Hamilton Board of Health Meeting Minutes Tuesday May 14 , 2024 COA Building 299 Bay Rd., S. Hamilton, MA**

**Members Present**: David Smith, Chair, Jean E. Ramsey, MD MPH

**Members Absent:** Dr. Giselle Perez

**Others Present**: Dennis Palazzo (Director of Health), Judith Ryan (Hamilton Public Health Nurse), Paul Vernucci (Regional Coordinator), Peter Mirandi (Health Dept. consultant), John Maestranzi

**Call to order**: meeting was called to order at 5:00pm

**Approval of minutes** of April 9, 2024 revised by Smith tabled until next meeting to give Board members an opportunity to review edits.

**Discussion of Septic Loan Program (update); History;** Financing Agreement from Clean Water Trust was signed and received, funding approved, consultation with other town departments to determine application fee and interest rate prior to loan application process to town residents. *Ramsey will summarize results of research for surrounding communities with regard to associated fees. (Average 4%) –* Discussion will continue at next meeting.

**Keeping of Animals regulation:** Peter gave a presentation with regard to the current BOH regulation (minimum standards for the keeping of animals, chapter 8) - current regulation does not allow for a variance.

Resident, John Maestranzi, 240 Asbury St. has applied for a permit to keep horses. Property is non- conforming under current regulation with regard to square footage. According to the minutes of a Board of Health meeting on 1/16/03, the property was granted a permit and has maintained a permit since then but it lapsed during COVID. A site visit was conducted by the Board post-meeting with Maestranzi explaining the details of the property. During the visit, Maestranzi agreed to supply a more detailed plot plan to the Board showing the locations of the horse-related facilities with setbacks and well locations. Another site visit is scheduled after the Board receives the requested site plan.

**Motion; table until next meeting pending site visit and new documentation requested by the Board to extend current permit**

**Private Well regulation**: Peter gave a presentation and update on the progress on revising the private well regulation. Manchester-by- the-Sea has been working to update their regulation. Discussion to continue at next meeting.

**Review of the vote on reconsideration of the Board’s regulation for TB screening at public schools; Motion; History;** At its April 9, 2024**,** meeting,the Board voted to eliminate from the BOH regulation the requirement of TB risk assessment and testing for public schools, colleges and universities with the exception of the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. **-** *passed unanimously* **- Update;** To effect this vote**,** Smith proposed new language under “Definitions” that would define “schools” as “the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 130 Essex Street, Hamilton” for the purposes of this document. To meet the legal requirements, the vote on this revised regulation will be included in the next Board meeting agenda.

**8 Lois Street - History; Motion***; ( on April 9, 2024) -*support and approve the condemnation order dated March 3, 2024 regarding property at 8 Lois Street as written *- approved unanimously* **Update**; property owner is making positive progress under the direction of the health department, of cleaning and removing trash.

**Public Health Nurse Report; (Judith Ryan): Infectious diseases -** Lyme disease - 1 case, coronavirus cases - 1, influenza – 1 case, Hepatitis B – 2 cases. Diaper Drive; collected 934 diapers and 6 packages of wipes. Ryann attended a conference on the effects of climate change.

 **Regional Social Worker Report:** RSW office hours at HW Library (2nd and 4th Tues. 10:30-12:30) at Hamilton Housing Authority (1st and 3rd Tues.). Caregiver support group meets on 3rd Mon. at Essex COA.

**Motion** to adjourn at 6:06 –passed without objection

Next meeting June 11, 2024 at 5pm, COA building