**Hamilton Board of Health Meeting Minutes Tuesday September 10 , 2024 COA Building 299 Bay Rd., S. Hamilton, MA**

**Members Present**: David Smith, Chairman, 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), and Mack Soleimani (resident)

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

**Approval of minutes** of July 9, 2024 – approved without objection. Approval of minutes of August 13, 2024 - tabled until next meeting

**Keeping of Animals Regulation:** Chairman David Smith presented a final draft regulation. A public hearing was held on July 30, 2024 where the Board listened and reacted to public concerns. David did much research and proposes an amendment to the new regulation as follows: - **Motion**: Amend section 9.3 (a) “10 feet from any abutting property line” to “5 feet from any abutting property line” - passed without objection

On the matter of how variance requests would be handled, the following was introduced:

**Motion**: allow “minor” variance requests to be decided by an authorized representative of the Board of Health - passed without objection

Discussion of fees for new permits and fines for failure to renew a permit - Palazzo will assemble for review by the Board a fee schedule summary to be sent to all renewing permit holders

**Private Well Regulation**; Peter presented a draft model regulation to the Board which is an amendment from our current regulation for consideration and discussion, PFAS testing and annual water testing has been discussed – It was agreed that the draft regulation should be posted on BOH town web page –and recommended that a public hearing be held at a later date. D**iscussion to continue at next meeting**

**HWRSD Schools**: Request from the Wenham Board of Health that we consider a joint Board regulation with regard to air and water quality in the HWRSD schools. It was agreed that the two Boards should engage with schools on this issue - David conferred with Wenham BOH Chair on this issue. Agreement between Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Health that it would be appropriate to have a joint Board meeting to devise a scope of effort for parameters for all municipal facilities, or just school facilities – what concerns with regard to air and water quality – what action to be taken, fact gathering, testing in scope of facilities agreed upon

Joint Boards meeting will be scheduled and discussion will follow

**Public Health Nurse Report (Judith Ryan): Infectious diseases -**  Coronavirus – 8 cases, Influenza – 2 cases. - MDPH has reported 91 positive mosquito samples of EEE, 4 human cases and 2 animal cases. 302 positive mosquito samples of WNV were reported– 10 human cases of WNV - risk levels in the are low for Hamilton and Wenham, TB testing at Gordon will commence next week , the Health Dept. currently has 900 covid test kits to distribute to residents that could be obtained at the COA during normal business hours. Flu clinics have been scheduled for 10/15/24 & 10/29/24

**Motion** to adjourn at 6:32 – passed without objection

Next meeting October 8, 2024 at 5pm, COA building