**Hamilton Board of Health Meeting Minutes Tuesday October 8 , 2024
Senior Center 299 Bay Rd., S. Hamilton, MA**

**Members Present**: David Smith, Chairman, Jean E. Ramsey, MD MPH, Dr. Giselle Perez

 **Others Present**: Dennis Palazzo (Director of Health), Judith Ryan (Hamilton Public Health Nurse), Paul Vernucci (Regional Coordinator), Peter Mirandi (consultant), Joe Domelowicz (Town Manager)

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

**Approval of minutes** of September 10, 2024 – approved without objection. Approval of minutes of August 13, 2024-- approved without objection

**Keeping of Animals Regulation.** In an effort to continue to upgrade current older regulations dating back to the 1980’s, in collaboration with the Animal Control Officer, local barn managers and animal owners, and surrounding communities a draft revised regulation was assembled and distributed prior to the July meeting. A public hearing on the draft was held on July 30, 2024 where the Board listened and reacted to public concerns. Chair Smith did much additional research and proposed amending the draft revised regulation as follows:

* Confusion and misunderstanding about the relationship between Keeping of Animals Permits and Stable/Coop Licenses should be eliminated by deleting Section 3.7.
* The comments of the state Department of Agricultural Resources to the effect that Sections 5.4 and 5.5 were unenforceable and so should be deleted and instead proposed as a Town Bylaw; accordingly, those two sections should be deleted.
* The recommendation of Town Counsel that a provision for “minor” variances may be incorporated but only if the term “minor” is defined and so that was done in Sections 14.1 and 14.4.
* In Section 16.B.3, the specification of monetary penalties for violations of the regulation was amended to allow the Board discretion in levying fines by inserting the words “up to” before the listed dollar figures.

Motions were made on these amendments as follows:

* **Motion**: Adopt the bullet points one, two and three as written above - passed
* **Motion:** Table bullet point four (written above) until next meeting - passed

**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** (this item remains tabled from previous meeting)

**HWRSD Schools.** History. This Board received a 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. A joint Board meeting was held on September 23, 2024 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, etc. Dr. Perez and David Frankel will collaborate and update the Board at the next meeting.

**Public Health Nurse Report; (Judith Ryan); Infectious diseases.** Coronavirus – 3 cases, Influenza – 2 cases. - risk levels in the are low for Hamilton and Wenham. 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 and 10/29/24.

**Updates**. 8 Lois Street – Health Department working closely with court appointed conservator towards creating a safe environment and proper disposition of the property. Tiny Houses – informational discussion regarding the state’s upcoming ADU regulation which takes effect in February 2025 and its impact on the Town of Hamilton as it relates to our local ADU regulation under development.

**Motion** to adjourn at 6:14 – passed without objection

Next meeting November12, 2024 at 5pm, COA building