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

**Members Present**: David Smith, Chairman, Dr. 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 (Health Dept. consultant -telephonically)

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

**Approval of minutes:** Approval of October 8, 2024 minutes – approved without objection. Approval of October 21, 2024 minutes – approved without objection Approval of minutes of November 12, 2024 - approved without objection

**Keeping of Animals Regulation:** History-In an effort to continue to upgrade current older regulations dating back to the 1980’s, a discussion continued as to an update. Chairman David Smith presented a model regulation to include fines, fees and penalties. In collaboration with the Animal Control Officer and surrounding communities, a draft of the updated regulation was assembled and distributed. A public hearing was held on July 30, 2024 where the Board listened and reacted to public concerns. - It was agreed that the Health Department will send notices for renewal to permit holders on or about July 1st (approx. 60 days prior to expiration), a second notice will be sent on or about August 1st (approx. 30 days prior to expiration). A fine of $100.00 will be levied on September 7th for non-compliance (failure to renew permit) and be increased by $100.00 weekly until permit has been renewed with a right to appeal before the board. Talking points also included:

* 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. Bullet points one, two and three as written were approved by unanimous vote at the 11/12/24 meeting and bullet point four was tabled.

**Motion:** Adopt the newly revised regulation as presented to the Board at this meeting without the 2 words “up to” in section 16 b 3 preceding the dollar figure for each fine. - passed unanimously

**HWRSD Schools**: History- 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. Update- David Frenkel (Wenham Board of Health) met with Andrew Ting (Wenham) to discuss air quality in the schools. Dr. Perez will review and weigh in on the results of that meeting. More discussion to follow.

**Public Health Nurse Report (Judith Ryan): Infectious diseases -**  Coronavirus – 5 cases, Influenza – <5 cases. Salmonellosis - <5 cases, Babesiosis - <5 cases. The Health Dept. currently has 900 COVID test kits to distribute to residents that can be obtained at the COA during normal business hours.

**Update from Regional Public Health Coalition:** All four towns have signed off on the Eastern Essex Regional Public Health Coalition Inter-municipal agreement for the Public Health Excellence shared services grant and it was sent to the state for approval. Paul Vernucci (Regional Public Health Coordinator) will be the facilitator.

**Updates from the Health Director:** 8 Lois Street – the Health Department, working closely with court appointed conservator towards creating a safe environment and proper disposition of the property, has completed a final inspection and since all violations of the housing and sanitary codes appear to have been resolved, the property has been released from condemnation. We are working on a dental clinic for the residents of the community to be held after the first of the year. Round two of Hamilton’s food inspections has been completed. We are working on a wellness clinic to be held in early spring.

**Motion** to adjourn at 5:54 – passed without objection

Next meeting January 14, 2025 at 5pm, COA building