

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016

Present: Board of Health members: Lindle Willnow, Susan Wilfahrt, Health Agent Leslie Whelan

Meeting Opened: Lindle Willnow called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at Hamilton Senior Center

Discussion – Board of Health Member – Vacancy

Discussion ensued about how the Board has had a vacancy for nearly one year. The Board has a list of volunteers who served on the Medical Reserve Corps, professional engineers, shelter team members, nurses, and sanitarians. Discussion addressed how a first step to fill the vacancy is to have Lindle Willnow and Susan Wilfahrt call people they know on the list to assess if there is interest in serving on the Board.

Discussion – FDA Food Grant – 2013 Federal Food Code

Discussion was on how Peabody had received a \$20,000 grant to provide training to local boards of health and staff to encourage these groups to adopt at the Town level the 2013 Federal Food Code. The Board and staff will get training followed by intent to adopt code and enforce it through a local regulation. Peabody has requested quotes from food consultants who could provide the training. A training presentation would be made at a BOH meeting. Health Agent Leslie Whelan opined that there could be a day-long training for health agents.

Discussion – Procedure for Permitting Septic System Upgrades

Discussion ensued about procedure with Board and Health Agent when a septic system is being upgraded and number of existing bedrooms seen during a site visit differs from the number of bedrooms for which the existing septic system was permitted. There was a case of a house with 5 bedrooms and that appears to be the original layout of the house, however the septic system was upgrade in 1988 for three bedrooms. The Board of Health confirmed that the Health Agent can make the permitting decision for septic system upgrades based on what is observed during a site visit.

Discussion – Plastic Bags/Styrofoam By-Law

Discussion addressed how the Acord Food Pantry is interested in reusing thin film plastic shopping bags received with donations of food. Discussion was on how the food pantry could not purchase new thin film plastic bags with handles since this would be in conflict with the ban. However, if this type of plastic bag is brought into the pantry then it could be reused by patrons taking food out.

Discussion ensued about how the patrons could be encouraged to bring their own reusable bags. Also suggested was if the food pantry could put out a request to the community for donations of reusable bags. The Board is encouraging the food pantry not to provide any bags (patrons can use reusable bags) and noted that there may be sanitary concerns about reusing plastic shopping bags. Whelan will ask the food pantry if it would be interested in having someone with quite a few reusable bags donate them. Whelan will clarify with the food pantry that thin-film plastic produce bags exempted from the ban must not have handles.

Discussion – Highland Street Water Management Project

Discussion was on work to begin soon by Northeast Mosquito Control District on Highland Street when the ground freezes near Howard and Linden Street to remove brush, debris, and siltation to minimize standing water. A few years ago the Town did culvert work in the area. Work is done during frozen conditions to minimize damage to the wetlands.

Review Minutes dated December 2, 2015

Willnow moved to approve the minutes as amended. Wilfahrt seconded the motion.
VOTE: Unanimous.

New Business

Whelan had spoken to Peter Britton about the odor at his composting facility since a resident had complained on upper Asbury Street.

There were two local upgrade variances requested: 188 Echo Cove Road and 9 Clark Avenue.

Discussion was about food borne illness reported in Town as well as enforcement that can be implemented relative to state law and paid sick time.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 7:54 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 24 at the Senior Center.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation