**Hamilton Board of Health Meeting Minutes January 10, 2023 Senior Center Building 299 Bay Rd., S. Hamilton, MA**

**Members Present**: David Smith, Chairman; Dr. Giselle Perez; Dr. Jean Ramsey

**Others Present**: Dennis Palazzo (Director of Health), Judith Ryan (Public Health Nurse)

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

**Approval of minutes** of December 13, 2022 - not approved

**Introduction of new Public Health Nurse, Judith Ryan**. From December 6 to Jan 11 - 14 cases of influenza, 4 cases of Lyme disease, 47 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 1 case of varicella.

Dr. Perez is concerned about the reporting of mental health in our schools and would like more discussions in the future.

**Regional Public Health Nurse (Rachel Lee) and Social Worker (Jessie Palm)** submitted a report to include flu clinics and COVID clinics as well as health related programs within the region.

**Turf Field Installation-** Dr. Ramsey spoke about the research she has done recently. Bottom line: there is not enough data to say whether artificial turf is safe to play on. In 2008, the Consumer Product Safety Commission concluded that children are not at risk from exposures but subsequently retracted this assurance in 2015. Most turf fields are made of substances that contain PFAS and other chemicals that are known toxins, although in very small quantities. However, in-situ studies need to be done to quantify the risks. A federal study to characterize the potential human exposures is ongoing. Many Massachusetts towns have recently banned turf fields. The Massachusetts DPH has issued a series of precautions to minimize the public risk of exposure to artificial turf fields.

David Smith said we should consider prohibiting the use PFAS chemicals in the manufacturing of the artificial turf proposed to be installed so that turf fields would be PFAS free.

Discussion to be continued, as more research is needed.

**Green Burials-** Dr. Ramsey has done research, shared with the Board and submitted a proposal for green burials with in the town of Hamilton.

David Smith suggested that we should determine what state regulations are in place that need to be followed and also request the Hamilton Conservation Committee review and approve such burials prior to a decision being made by this Board. Action item is to report back to the Select Board.

**Other Business;**

**Sharps collection program** – The Board contracted with NE MedWaste for a low cost collection container that residents can take home, fill, and return to us for disposal. Presently, 30 containers are available for residents who would like to participate in this program at no cost to them. A press release was posted to the website to notify residents. **Educational Program**- A number of topics are proposed to educate residents, including CPR/first aid training, navigating social media, stress management, healthy eating; details will be discussed at a future meeting. Dennis reported on septic, soil, food/pool/recreational camp permitting and related revenue reports for calendar year 2022.

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

Next meeting February 14, 2023