

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 2, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
Meeting ID: 84154967982  
Password 028385

Members Present: Giselle Perez PhD, Christopher Small, and David Smith (Chair).

Others Present: Christine Lee (Public Health Nurse), Leslie Whelan (Health Agent)

This meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by David Smith. All were in attendance via Zoom.

**Review and approve minutes from past meetings including 1/15, 3/11, 5/19, 5/29, and 6/9**

Motion made by Dr. Perez to approve minutes of 1/15, 3/11, 5/19, 5/29 and 6/9.

Seconded by Christopher Small.

Roll Call Vote: Christopher Small – aye, Dr. Perez – aye, David Smith – aye. Unanimous in favor.

**Report from Public Health Nurse, Christine Lee**

Christine Lee announced that there were 37 confirmed case, seven deaths, and three residents currently being followed. David Smith said Hamilton had one of the lowest per capita infection rates in eastern MA. The decline in cases was a result of residents following guidelines.

Christine Lee discussed the value of having an ice cream reward program for children wearing helmets. Ms. Lee thought it was important to continue the program so children would feel comfortable with the police. Chief Russ Stevens suggested having a box of Dove Bars at the police station and children could visit the station to redeem their ice cream coupons. Cumberland Farms was another option for redemption.

Christine Lee discussed flu clinics and that Rachel Lee would assist her in hosting the clinics. The format for clinics would be changed to include a drive through program. Ms. Lee added that there were two cases of Lyme disease reported and noted the importance of tick prevention.

**Report from Health Agent, Leslie Whelan**

Leslie Whelan summarized her report which was emailed earlier. Ms. Whelan said half of her work was septic related while the other half was administrative. Ms. Whelan noted the absence of the administrative assistant and hoped the position would be replaced with an office manager because a health director was not present. Ms. Whelan had not compared the septic activity with last year's work but thought it was a little less.

### **Summary Report on the Open Town Forum on Covid-19 held on June 9, 2020 by David Smith**

David Smith thought the forum went well but had not received any comments or criticism from residents. Hwcam had recorded the forum and it was available on the Town website. Members discussed the merits of determining how many residents had viewed the forum and if they found it helpful.

### **Update on Covid-19 matters from Board Members**

Dr. Perez and Christopher Small did not have any updates.

### **Summary of recent conference call with DPW between Christine Lee and David Smith.**

Christine Lee reported that all New England states, except Connecticut, did not need to quarantine when visiting other New England States. Members discussed the reopening of schools and senior centers. Pool rentals were discussed even though the Hamilton pool was closed. Reusable grocery bags, large conference rooms in municipal buildings, and remote working were discussed. Disinfecting a home rental, food trucks, and auctions were discussed. Phase three would open on July 6, 2020. David Smith and Ms. Lee had been in regular communication with Gordon Conwell and Asbury Grove regarding their plans. Asbury Grove reportedly decided not to have their July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

Leslie Whelan discussed Bobby Cody's update on pool, food, and camp inspections. Pingree camp would be reopening on July 6, 2020. The pool at Myopia had already been inspected and opened. Asbury Grove kitchen had been inspected and it was unknown if the pool would open. The Hamilton House of Pizza had changed ownership and would be inspected on July 7, 2020. Ms. Whelan would send flyers to David Smith for his review. Mr. Smith would forward the flyers to Bobby Gates for publicity.

### **Schedule and topics for next Board meetings.**

The next meeting would be Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 2:00 pm. The meeting would be held in person and Dr. Perez would join via Zoom.

### **New Business**

Christine Lee discussed the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education interim guidance for reopening school in the fall. Ms. Lee said it was not good for the students to stay home. Wearing masks would be stressed. Dr. Perez said the Board of Health did not have the authority to determine what the Schools did. Leslie Whelan said the Board had input into the decision. Dr. Perez noted that children were less affected but children did not handle wearing masks well. Dr. Perez had hoped school would have started during summer when work could be done outside. David Smith said Larry Sargent had sent him a Canadian report, which did not recommend children wear masks. The Canadian guidance was in contrast to the State's guidance. Dr. Perez cautioned members about non-scientific interpretation of data. Ms. Lee and Mr. Smith would reach out to the Schools and school nurses to have a discussion similar to the

one regarding vaping. Ms. Lee had also suggested having a fourteen day vacation period and outdoor classes. It was agreed there was a huge area of uncertainty.

Christine Lee recalled that a resident had called the Board of Health office three times adamant that children should not wear masks. Ms. Lee was concerned with the tone of the resident. David Smith would call the resident back. Dr. Perez noted that people were receiving conflicting information so they were responding with emotions. Mr. Smith said the Canadian report validated the resident's concerns. Dr. Perez responded that children were highly resilient.

There was nothing else to do to approve the Hamilton Wenham Little League protocol. Sean Timmons had requested that the Board review and approve two other sports, baseball and softball, including the adult twilight league.

**Documents submitted.**

Health Agent Report dated, April 21, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

Minutes dated, 1/15, 3/11, 5/19, 5/29 and 6/9.

**Adjournment**

Motion made by David Smith to adjourn at 2:57 pm.

Second by Dr. Perez.

Roll call vote: David Smith – aye, Dr. Perez – aye, and Christopher Small – aye. Unanimous in favor.

Prepared by:

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Marcie Ricker