

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES OF MEETING

JANUARY 7, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Meeting ID 851 9800 1790
Password 729156

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

Others Present: Rachel Lee (Public Health Nurse) and Leslie Whelan (Health Agent)

This meeting was called to order by David Smith at 5:02 p.m. with a quorum established via Zoom.

Roll Call: David Smith (Chair) – aye, Giselle Perez – aye, Christopher Small – aye
Rachel Lee joined the meeting after it started.

Meeting Minutes of 12/10/20

Change to be made to the minutes that Christopher Small was a past teacher but not with the Hamilton-Wenham School District. Leslie Whelan agreed to make minutes reflect the change and will then post them.

Motion made by Christopher Small to approve the minutes.

Seconded by David Smith.

Roll Call Vote: David Smith – aye, Christopher Small – aye, Giselle Perez had not yet read the minutes

Report from Health Agent, Leslie Whelan

Leslie Whelan reported that she will be helping Rachel Lee with the First Responder Clinic that will be in Topsfield for towns of Topsfield, Hamilton, Wenham, Middleton and Boxford. Leslie will be helping vaccinators learn to use PrepMod, the new software program for the state. With PrepMod, consumers can find where vaccinations are being offered, and whether they qualify and enable them to sign up. Vaccinators will have access to the file and will add to it when the vaccine was given, what the dose was and how it was administered. That data will then be entered into MIIS (Massachusetts Immunization Information System) and from there it will go to Commonwealth Medicine where the insurance billing is done.

Leslie Whelan reported on the status of annual permits. Wind River has not been sending in pump records and Greg Bernard, the Septic Inspector will be working with them to get that information before their permit can be renewed. Leslie has also been working with the Finance Department to obtain reimbursement for \$1,400 spent on flu clinics in the fall.

Update/Discussion from Board on Covid-19 DPH conference calls and related matters including ongoing Public Health Education Campaign

David Smith reported that the state would not allow shipments of less than 200 vaccinations for first responders so the towns of Topsfield, Hamilton, Wenham, Middleton and Boxford formed a consortium to be held at the Topsfield Fairground beginning on January 10, 2021. The state will be setting up mega vaccination clinics at Gillette Stadium, UMass Amherst, Big E Fairground and the Topsfield Fairground. The latest schedule for vaccinations can be found on the Department of Health website.

Report from Director of Public Health Nursing, Rachel Lee

Results from the testing site at the middle school showed that positive Covid tests in Hamilton went from 28 yesterday to 37 this afternoon. At least 17 of those who tested positive were in the same 5 families indicating household transmission. The CTC (contact tracing collaborative) and 4 nurses in town have been helping with the increase.

The first vaccines were delivered this week and Fire Chief Brunet moved the freezer from Town Hall to the Safety Building where it is on a circuit with a generator in case of a power outage. Rachel Lee, with Leslie Whelan's help will be managing the first responder vaccinations on Monday and Tuesday where about 300 participants are expected. With PrepMod, nurses will be documenting vaccine information, administering the vaccines and setting up follow-up vaccines.

Rachel Lee told the Board that the CDC reported that 6 out of 270,000 people vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine had anaphylactic reactions thought to be caused by polyethylene glycol or polysorbate. Those with histories of immediate allergic reactions to anything, including non mRNA vaccines, will be monitored for 30 minutes at the Coolidge Building at the Topsfield Fairground. Others will be monitored for 15 minutes in their cars. To-go bags with epinephrine, albuterol and Benadryl will be stocked as well as the ability to start an intravenous. Transportation will be available for people with anaphylaxis to be brought to the hospital. Rachel created a binder with a pre-vaccination checklist, contraindications, and cautions. A chart will help determine if there is an acute immediate allergic reaction vs. vasovagal reaction because they can look similar. In addition to 4-5 nurses per shift, there will be paramedics.

The mRNA vaccinations prevent Covid in 70-95 percent of those vaccinated. All 3 of the mRNA vaccines are nearly 100 percent effective in preventing serious disease. So as these high-risk groups get vaccinated, there should be a quick reduction in rates of death and severe Covid disease in fully vaccinated groups.

Update on recent meetings of the HWRSD Covid Response Team

David Smith reported that with the Board's recommendation to the superintendent, the Covid Response Team now has 2 parents attending their meetings. The Covid Response Team agreed to take into account all of the information provided from the students and staff when making

Schedule date and topics for the next Board meeting

David Smith received an email from Jackie Bresnahan from the Wenham Board of Health requesting a joint meeting. David will check and see if they would be able to meet on January 21, 2021 at 6 p.m. or earlier and he will look for agenda clarification. David Smith, Giselle Perez and Christopher Small are all able to attend. This will be the date for the next Board of Health meeting.

New Business

Joseph Domelowicz sent David Smith his final proposal for the Health and Human Services Department. Approval will be needed from FinComm, the Board of Selectman, and town meeting. The proposal would not be effective until the beginning of FY21-22 which would be on July 1, 2021.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Christopher Small to adjourn at 5:55 p.m.

Seconded by Giselle Perez.

Roll Call Vote: David Smith – aye, Giselle Perez – aye, and Christopher Small – aye.