**Hamilton Board of Health Meeting Minutes Tuesday January 9 , 2024 COA Building 299 Bay Rd., S. Hamilton, MA**

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

**Others Present**: Dennis Palazzo (Director of Health), Judith Ryan (Hamilton Public Health Nurse), Jessie Palm (Regional Social Worker), Hayes Demeule (Animal Health Inspector)

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

**Approval of minutes** of November 14, 2023 - approved unanimously

**Discussion to update Animal Keeping Regulation-** Palazzo presented a draft update for review. Tabled until next meeting to clarify/define responsibilities for boarder vs owner.

**Green Burials on Private Property***- History*: must comply with all State guidelines as well as guidelines approved by the Board at the March 23, 2023 meeting. Ramsey presented additional information about green burials (only three states prohibit green burials). Ramsey recently responded to inquiries from residents.

**Tobacco Regulations Update;**

*History:* Joyce Redford presented a draft upgraded regulation to the Board that is more in line with state guidelines with required state regulations and with the option to increase penalties at the discretion of the Board. **Motion**- (11/14/23) Accept and approve guidelines from North Shore / Cape Ann Tobacco Control Policy Program and move to public hearing the draft regulation restricting the sale of tobacco to minors - *approved unanimously*  A public hearing will be held in an effort to inform the community- (Key points; prohibit smoking bars and adult only establishments.) Tabled until next meeting; develop a program for audits and training in the event of a violation to be added to the regulation.

**Private Well Regulation/Permitting;**

*History:* Peter Mirandi has been working with the 3D coalition in an effort to collect more regional data and Town of Manchester by the Sea for a more collaborative effort in drafting updated private well water regulations. Tabled until next meeting – no update at this time.

**Betterment Septic Loan Program/Financial Assistance -** *Background;*Mass Housing program will be recommended to residents in need, however income requirements and credit check and loan amount cannot exceed 25k. Jean Ramsey thought there was a positive reception at the Town Meeting 9/5/23. No concerns from the Town Meeting and questions were answered with a favorable response. Town Meeting approved 91 to 4 the implementation of this program. Implementation process for application and applicant approval will be done by the Department of Health. Update: Palazzo has filed a loan application on behalf of the Town of Hamilton with the Clean Water Trust and we are waiting approval at this time.

**Regional Social Worker-**

Jessie Palm clarified new office hours in Hamilton (Tuesdays at H/W and Rockport Libraries, Fridays at COA in Hamilton) where she is available to discuss mental health issues, depression as well as connecting residents to appropriate agencies for aid. She has been working with our schools and participating with the wellness committee on such topics as food waste and food insecurity. Currently developing a caregiving class for spouses and a “how to respond to kids with behavioral issues” presentation.

**Public Health Nurse Report-** *data compiled over 2 months*

Lyme disease - 5 cases, coronavirus cases - 30, tuberculosis – 2 cases, influenza – 9 cases, Campylobacteriosis – 1 case, Varicella – 1 case 130 doses of vaccine administered at the flu clinic in November

**Motion** to adjourn at 6:31 – passed without objection

Next meeting February 13, 2024 at 5pm, COA building