

## CLERKS CORNER 1.2019

### What makes Wenham tick?

What makes small municipalities in Massachusetts like Wenham tick? Believe it or not, it is those who live here. Without active residents, not much can happen in our community. All community members have their fair share of responsibilities for keeping the Town clean, neat and orderly. For example, all households who complete the mandated annual census which is due now, help inform the state and federal government of our population and what assistance we may need. Then of course there are those who work for the Town; maintaining our community, keeping us safe, preserving our history, consolidating our bills and taxes, and tracking our community growth but they cannot function without the rules and bylaws that are decided upon at Town Meeting.

Town Meeting is the body that rules or governs the Town and the Town Meeting body is made up of Town voters. Hence, without voters, there is no Town Meeting and without a Town Meeting there is no budget, no bylaws, nor any plan for our community. It indeed “takes a village”.

All registered voters accept, amend or deny the provisions put forth by the Board of Selectmen and other public committees at Town Meeting. In Wenham, our Annual Town Meeting is the first Saturday in April making that the 6<sup>th</sup> of April this year. It commences at 1pm at The Buker School. The Wenham Village Improvement Society hosts a free lunch for all residents also at The Buker School at noon before the meeting.

Town Meeting follows the warrant that is delivered to all households prior to the Meeting with help from the local Boy and Girl Scouts. It is also posted around Town and on the Town’s website, [www.wenhamma.gov](http://www.wenhamma.gov).

Town committees and the Town Administrator have items that have come up over the year and are brought before the Board of Selectmen to include on the warrant. Building the warrant is a time-consuming process that begins in January and ends in March which allows for residents to raise their opinions. The Select Board is elected to represent the residents but residents need to voice their views. Prior to

the finalizing of the Town Meeting warrant, between January and March, is a great time to express these thoughts.

Wenham has a rich 375 year history of citizen engagement much of which was visible and celebrated on September 8, 2018 with the Parade and Community Day. Let's continue to come together not only to celebrate our community but to make it tick. Inform yourself of the issues and attend Town Meeting on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

*Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Wenham Town Clerk April 11, 2014 and has achieved the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk in 2017. For more information on the clerk's office, please go to [www.wenhamma.gov](http://www.wenhamma.gov) or follow the Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.*