

Clerks corner March 2018
Learn something everyday

I believe Martha Stewart summed up my personal mission when she said; “if you learn something new every day, you can teach something new every day.” Here are three things I’d like to share with you in hopes that you too can learn something new. For one, I have a dog and we go for walks all over Town and often in the woods. I pick up Walter’s when we take walks around Town but I usually leave it in the woods thinking it is natural and is fine to leave there. I am wrong. Thanks to the Wenham Board of Health and Greenscapes Massachusetts Coalition, I have learned that dog waste is a solid waste and does not decompose quickly in nature. It also contains twice as much bacteria as human waste and if left outside can be washed away and end up affecting our drinking water. Wow. I am now more vigilant about picking up after Walter regardless of where we walk. I have shared this information with all Wenham dog owners on record and hope they do the same.

Second, the absentee voting process is another subject that oftentimes is misunderstood. A voter is eligible to vote absentee if he/she is unable to make it to the polls due to illness, religious reasons or physically being out of town. “AV” voting is a process and requires an application. The application can be completed by the voter or a family member and can even be completed for all elections in any given calendar year. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon the day before an election. Remember your vote matters, is important and you should not miss an opportunity to exercise your right just because your schedule is not in synch with the Election Day calendar. Know your future election dates so you can start the AV process as early as possible. The Wenham Town Election is scheduled for Thursday April 12, 2018. The last day to apply for an AV ballot is Wednesday April 11th however the application can be completed as early as today by contacting the Clerk.

The last lesson for today is about best practice for attending Town Meeting. Being familiar with the articles that will be voted on at Town Meeting is essential. These articles are in the warrant that is always available prior to Town Meeting. A Warrant Hearing is the meeting scheduled a week prior to the meeting and is a great place to ask questions and get more information on each article. This year the Wenham Warrant Hearing is scheduled for Monday April 2, 2018 at 7pm at The Buker School. Knowing about the articles and all pertinent information prior to Town Meeting will encourage a Town Meeting of informed residents. In Wenham, the warrant was closed on Tuesday March 6th and will be available to residents with commentary and recommendations both online and delivered to all households.

The Town Luncheon sponsored by the Wenham Village Improvement Society and is scheduled for Saturday April 7, 2018 at The Buker School at noon followed at 1pm by Town Meeting. All residents are invited and encouraged to attend but no dogs please!

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 or follow the Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.