

CLERK'S CORNER

AUGUST 2015

Government in the Town Wenham

Wenham is a great place to live. Our small North Shore town (population just under 5000) is located only 20 miles north of Boston and is bordered by Beverly, Hamilton, Topsfield and Danvers. It is convenient to many larger towns and cities for shopping and attractions. Colleges, beautiful beaches and conservation lands abound in and around Wenham for all different types of activities. Those of us lucky enough to call Wenham home know all the advantages to living in this small quiet town and many are actively involved in the community in elective and volunteer positions.

Here in Wenham, our legislative body is the open town meeting, the oldest form of government dating back to the mid 1600's. Open town meeting is a gathering of all registered voters with the purpose of giving every registered voter a voice in all matters concerning the governing of our town. This is the most direct form of government that can be found. Every vote matters and counts. However, attendance is required to have this voice. Nowadays, with our "uber" busy lives, making time to attend these open town meetings is difficult, but the importance has not wavered. The ability to raise a concern, vote on a new bylaw or even repeal one is a huge benefit to living in a small town such as Wenham. This "ability to have a say in your town's policies" should be treasured and not wasted.

Another way to get involved in Wenham town government is to run for an elected position or seek appointment to a board or committee. There are numerous positions that need to be filled to help the town run smoothly. Serving on a local board or committee, whether elected or appointed, is a wonderful way to give back to the town, gain knowledge and help shape the town's policies as well as develop yourself in new ways.

Looking forward, we have the presidential primary and election in 2016. As important and exciting as this is, it should not lessen the importance of the Wenham Annual Town Meeting, scheduled for Saturday April 2, 2016 followed by the local election on Thursday April 7th. There will be many articles to discuss and vote on at the town meeting. All information on town meeting and election

procedures will be available on the town's website, announced at Selectmen's meetings and from the Town Clerk.

The Wenham Museum's Wenham Day; Family Festival and Summer Fair, is scheduled for Saturday August 22, 2015. Please make note that Tuesday, September 8, 2015 is the start date for all the schools in the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District.

*Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Wenham Town Clerk April 11, 2014.
For more information on services offered by the clerk's office, please go to www.wenhamma.gov or to www.facebook.com/WenhamTownClerk*